

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 233

3 December 1984

JAPAN

Gromyko Turns Down Envoy's Invitation To Visit	C 1
KYODO Discusses New USSR-DPRK Border Treaty	C 1
Nakasone on Summit Issues for Jan U.S. Talks	C 2
MITI Completes Compromise Plan for Trade Talks	C 2
Port Call of Carl Vinson Provokes Protest	C 3

NORTH KOREA

'Talk' Discusses Kim's Informal Visit to PRC	D 1
Foreign Media Report Kim's China Visit	D 2
PRC Media on Trip	D 2
PRAVDA Cited	D 3
Press Conference Held With South Defector	D 3
Kaesong Official Denounces Panmunjom Shooting	D 7
NODONG SINMUN 'Watching Attitude' of South [29 Nov]	D 10
Response to Tripartite Talks Proposal Called For [NODONG SINMUN 26 Nov]	D 11
KCNA Hits Weinberger's Remarks on Military Aid	D 13
VRPR on Weinberger's Comments	D 13
Meeting Urges South Political Prisoners' Release	D 14
Kang Song-san Meets With Soviet Specialists	D 14
WPK Propaganda Workers Group Visits USSR	D 14
O Chin-u Condoles Czechoslovak Counterpart	D 15
Officials Send Greetings to Lao Leaders	D 15
Kim Il-song Greet Leaders	D 15
Kim Yong-nam Message	D 16
Kim Il-song Meets Latin American Chuche Group	D 16
O Chin-u Extends Greetings to Raul Castro	D 16
Big Successes Registered in Winter Fishing	D 17
Kim Il-song Work on Socialist Finance Published	D 17
NODONG SINMUN Views Production of Consumer Goods [20 Nov]	D 18

SOUTH KOREA

Paper Speculates on Kim Il-song's PRC Visit [THE KOREA HERALD 2 Dec]	E 1
KOREA TIMES Views Trip [2 Dec]	E 2
Soviet Defector Departs for Refugee Camp [THE KOREA HERALD 1 Dec]	E 2
Tax Exemption Agreement Signed With Kuwait	E 3
Coeds Bring Legal Action Against Police [THE KOREA TIMES 1 Dec]	E 3
National Assembly Passes 1985 Budget Bill [THE KOREA TIMES 2 Dec]	E 4
Ministry Reports Month's Foreign Trade in Black	E 5

KAMPUCHEA

Thai 'Violations' for Week Ending 29 Nov Noted	H 1
Foreign Minister Rules Out Meeting Sihanouk [AFP]	H 1
Polish Sejm Delegation Ends Visit, Departs	H 1
Greetings Cabled to Albania on National Day	H 2
Haiphong Party Committee Delegation Feted	H 2
KPRP Secretariat Circular on Front Anniversary	H 3
Briefs: GDR Trade Union Delegation; International Humanitarian Aid; Aid Distribution	H 5

LAOS

Villager Said Killed by Thai Land Mine 26 Nov	I 1
Thailand Urged To Solve Border Villages Problem	I 1
President Receives Departing GDR Ambassador	I 2
National Day Mass Rally Held in Vientiane	I 2
Party Instruction on Tribal New Year Festival	I 3

THAILAND

Khmer Resistance Said Ready To Attack SRV Forces [BANGKOK POST 2 Dec]	J 1
MATICHON on U.S. Ambassador's 'Interference' [30 Nov]	J 1
Sitthi Approves Press Control for Embassies	J 2
Prem, Athit Together at Royal Dinner Meeting [THE NATION REVIEW 2 Dec]	J 3
Han Asks Army To Stop Aid to Pro-Athit Term Move [BANGKOK POST 30 Nov]	J 3

VIETNAM

Soviet Freighter Rescues SRV Fishermen	K 1
Nguyen Huu Tho Receives New Thai Envoy	K 1
CPSU Support for Indochinese Countries Noted	K 1
Lao Leaders Greeted on National Anniversary	K 1
NHAN DAN Marks National Day [1 Dec]	K 2
Do Muoi Attends Albanian Ambassador's Reception	K 3
Cuban Reception Marks Army Day Anniversary	K 3
Council of State Holds Regular Session 29 Nov	K 3
NHAN DAN Editorial Greet 40th VPA Anniversary [23 Nov]	K 4
Briefs: MPR Friendship Chapter	K 6

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Hawke Discusses Results of General Election	M 1
South Australian Labor Government Loses Majority	M 1

PHILIPPINES

March at U.S. Embassy Protests 'U.S. Imperialism' [TIMES JOURNAL 1 Dec]	P 1
Demonstration Held Near Clark Air Base [BULLETIN TODAY 1 Dec]	P 1

Cardinal Sin Calls for 'Reconciliation' [KYODO]	P 2
MP's Present Presidential Succession Proposals	P 2
[BUSINESS DAY 30 Nov]	
Marcos Orders Dismantling of Failing Companies	P 3
Davao Transport Strike 'Temporarily' Lifted	P 3
[BUSINESS DAY 30 Nov]	
Probe Ordered on 'Unusual' Troop Movement	P 5
Ramos To Begin Investigation of Climaco Case	P 5
Ramos on Investigation of Army Conduct in Baguio	P 5
Authorities Hear of Military Abuses in Luzon	P 6
FEBC Reports 33 Killed in Army-NPA Battle in Bayog	P 6

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 234

4 December 1984

JAPAN

'Bitter' Reaction to Conditions for Gromyko Visit	C 1
Ministry Officials Remark	C 1
JCP Chairman To Meet With Chernenko 11 Dec	C 2
JETRO on Soviet Policy Change on Gas Project	C 2
Official Optimistic on U.S. Steel Compromise	C 3
Nakasone Urges Averting Trade Friction	C 3
EC Official Visits Tokyo, Discusses Cooperation	C 4
Meets With Abe	C 5
No Agreement on VTR Exports	C 5
Abe Responds to ASEAN Envoy's Query on Trade	C 6
Science Agency Chief on PRC Nuclear Energy Talks	C 7
Komeito Party Leader Attacks Nakasone Policies	C 7

NORTH KOREA

KPA Soldiers Rally Decries Panmunjom Shooting	D 1
Victim's Father Vows Revenge	D 5
Brother Comments on Incident	D 6
NODONG SINMUN Examines U.S. Maneuvers in South [30 Nov]	D 7
Kim Tae-chung Scores U.S. Support for Chon [VRPR]	D 9
Chon To Enlist More in Civilian Defense Corps	D 9
South Condemned as 'Graveyard of Human Rights'	D 9
South Students Protest Police Brutality	D 10
Paek Hak-nim Attends Cuban Embassy Reception	D 10
Austrian Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits	D 10
Kim Yong-nam Receives Group	D 10
Pak Song-chol Meets Austrians	D 10
Paper Discusses Socialism for World Peace	D 12
[NODONG SINMUN 26 Nov]	
Kim Chong-il Inspects Newly Built Houses	D 16

SOUTH KOREA

Unification Minister on North Regime, Future Talks	E 1
[TONG-A ILBO 4 Dec]	
Soviet Defector Cited on Kapitsa Visit to North	E 2
[TONG-A ILBO 3 Dec]	
Swedish Diplomat Views North's PRC, USSR Ties	E 3
[THE KOREA HERALD 4 Dec]	
KOREA HERALD on Kim Il-song China Trip [4 Dec]	E 3
Reaction to 30 Nov Lifting of Political Ban	E 5
Mixed Reactions of Parties [THE KOREA HERALD 1 Dec]	E 5
Meeting on New Party [THE KOREA HERALD 1 Dec]	E 5
Political Ramifications [THE KOREA HERALD 1 Dec]	E 6
Lifting of Ban Analyzed	E 7
KOREA TIMES Welcomes Step [1 Dec]	E 8
Paper Praises Chon's Leniency [THE KOREA HERALD 1 Dec]	E 9

MONGOLIA

Greetings Sent to Yugoslavia on Republic Day	F 1
Message to Sukrija	F 1
Greeting to Planinc	F 1
Jagbaral Greets Djuranovic	F 1

KAMPUCHEA

Lao National Day Marked by Meeting, Messages	H 1
Phnom Penh Meeting	H 1
Leaders' Message	H 1
Meeting Celebrates Mongolian National Day	H 2
Chea Soth Speech	H 3
AFP: Khmer, SRV Forces Clash at Nong Chan Base	H 4
VODK Scores Dolgikh's Remarks on Indochina	H 5
Briefs: GDR Trade Unionists Depart; Polish Lecturers Depart	H 7

LAOS

Hungary's Pal Losonczi Leads Delegation on Visit	I 1
Arrival 26 Nov	I 1
Call on Souphanouvong	I 1
Reception Held 26 Nov	I 2
Souphanouvong Reception Speech	I 3
Losonczi Reception Speech	I 5
2d Call on Souphanouvong	I 7
Call on Kaysone Phomvihane	I 7
Cooperation Documents Signed	I 8
Details of Agreements	I 8
Losonczi Departs	I 10
Communique Issued	I 10

VIETNAM

Hau Giang Province Releases Australian Citizen	K 1
Army Paper Views Sino-American 'Collusion'	K 1
[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 3 Dec]	
Soviet Red Cross, Red Crescent Send Medical Aid	K 1
Justice Minister Signs Mutual Aid Pact With Cuba	K 1

PHILIPPINES

TV Shows Marcos Signing Rice Fund, Walking	P 1
Attends Mass 2 Dec [AFP]	P 1
Marcos Orders Implementing Productivity Projects	P 1
Bank Official on Loan Package, Exchange Crisis	P 2
[ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 29 Nov]	
Delay in Bank Talks May Affect Oil Payments	P 2
[BUSINESS DAY 3 Dec]	
MALAYA Columnist Questions Possible Rice Shortage [29 Nov]	P 3
Accused Soldiers Ask for Aquino Case Dismissal	P 5
General Ramos Assesses Situation in Zamboanga	P 6
No Evidence of 'Rift'	P 6
Ban on High-Powered Firearms	P 6

Ramos Orders Military To Truthfully Inform Media
Army To Send Excess Armored Vehicles to Mindanao
Editorial Notes Growing Communist Insurgency
[ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 28 Nov]

P 6
P 7
P 7



DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 235

5 December 1984

JAPAN

Embassy Asks Halt to Soviet Pacific Rocket Test	C 1
Official Notes Possible Extension of Steel Talks	C 1
MITI Minister Noncommittal on Car Curbs to U.S.	C 1
Kanagawa Officials Oppose Carl Vinson Port Call	C 2
Zushi Mayor on Policy on U.S. Military Housing	C 2
EC Official Meets Nakasone, Urges Cooperation	C 3
Ministry Opposes Sakurauchi's Kampuchea Visit	C 3
Minister, ASEAN Envoys on Farm Products Tariff	C 4
Deputy Foreign Minister Returns From PRC Visit	C 4
Ministry Supports Development Aid Increase	C 4
MITI, Economic Group Agree To Oppose Tax Hike	C 4

NORTH KOREA

Paper Denounces Weinberger's 28 Nov Speech [NODONG SINMUN 2 Dec]	D 1
Chinese Fishermen Rescue Wrecked Korean Ship	D 2
Chon Remarks to Japan Envoy Called 'Treacherous' [MINJU CHOSON 4 Dec]	D 2
KPA Unit Rally Denounces Panmunjom 'Murder'	D 3
KPA Officer on Shooting	D 7
Soldier Urges Punishment	D 8
University Students in South Denounce 'DJP'	D 9
South's Political Ban Lifting Termed 'Hypocrisy'	D 9
Meeting Held on Kim Il-song's Work on Education	D 10

SOUTH KOREA

Ministry Approves Book With PRC Leaders' Works	E 1
Yi Won-kyong To Talk With Japanese Counterpart	E 1
Yi Departs for 5-Nation Trip	E 2
Postponement of N-S Economic Talks Viewed [TONG-A ILBO 28 Nov]	E 2
Contacts To Form New Party in Full Swing [THE KOREA TIMES 4 Dec]	E 3
Two Former Lawmakers Join DKP Following Ban Lift [THE KOREA TIMES 4 Dec]	E 4
Study Initiated on Dividing Police Functions [THE KOREA TIMES 5 Dec]	E 4
Lawmakers Pass Bill To Improve Labor Conditions [THE KOREA TIMES 5 Dec]	E 5
Paper Finds '85 Budget Bill 'Unsatisfactory' [THE KOREA TIMES 4 Dec]	E 5
Political Funds Distributed to Six Parties [THE KOREA TIMES 5 Dec]	E 7
Government Decides Export Target for 1985	E 7

MONGOLIA

Meeting of Solidarity for Palestinians Held	F 1
Ulaanbaatar Soiree Marks SFRY's Republic Day	F 1
Meeting Marks SRV Friendship Treaty Anniversary	F 1
UNEN Hails Anniversary	F 1

KAMPUCHEA

Details of Heng Samrin, Losonczi 25 Nov Toasts	H 1
[Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP 27 Nov]	
Communique Issued on Polish Parliamentary Visit	H 3
Chea Soth Speaks at Lao National Day Celebration	H 5
SPK on PRK's Hun Sen Meeting With PCF Official	H 6
Meeting With PCF's Gremetz [cross-reference]	H 6
Army, Working With SRV, Kills 19 'Bandits'	H 6
Phnom Penh Meeting Marks KUFNCD Anniversary	H 7
Chea Sim Speech	H 7
Report on Agricultural Developments 26 Nov-2 Dec	H 10
5 Khmer Said Killed in Camp Recapture Attempt	H 12
[Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW 5 Dec]	
VONADK, VODK Battle Reports for 23-29 Nov	H 12
VODK Reports Enemy Casualties During November	H 14

LAOS

PASASON Condemns Washington-Beijing Collusion	[1 Dec]	I 1
Inhabitants Return to Villages in Paklai		I 1
Leaders Greet Thailand on King's Birthday		I 1
Kaysone Phomviharn Interviewed by Hungarian Team	[Budapest TV]	I 2
Sali Vongkhamhao Meets Mekong Committee Official		I 4
Vientiane Rally Marks Mongolian Anniversaries		I 4
Various Events Mark National Anniversary		I 5
Leaders Visit War Memorial		I 5
Reception for Diplomatic Corps		I 6
Souphanouvong at Constitution Drafting Meeting		I 6

THAILAND

Sporadic Fighting Reported Along Border	J 1
[BANGKOK WORLD 4 Dec]	
Civilians Drafted To Build Strategic Road for SRV	J 1
[MATICHON 2 Dec]	
Students Protest U.S. Draft Bill on Drugs	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 4 Dec]	

VIETNAM

Radio Reports PRC Actions Through 25 Nov	K 1
Leaders Greet Thai King, Prime Minister	K 1
Party, State Leaders Hail MPR Counterparts	K 1
Truong Chinh Meets Women From Ha Tuyen	K 2

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Poll Puts Pressure on Hawke To Change Style	M	1
Hayden To Make 'No Further Comments' on Campaign [BERITA BUANA 27 Nov]	M	1

INDONESIA

Mokhtar on Visit to Hanoi, Border Crossers	N	1
Malaysia's Musa Hitam Arrives for Border Talks	N	1
Mokhtar Says Direct Trade With PRC Approved	N	1

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Rithauddeen on ASEAN Standing Committee Meeting	O	1
UN Ambassador Criticizes Antarctic Treaty	O	1

SINGAPORE

Announcement Says Elections To Be Held 22 Dec	O	1
---	---	---

PHILIPPINES

Marcos Urges Divestiture of Foreclosed Companies [BULLETIN TODAY 4 Dec]	P	1
Virata To Scrutinize Public Corporations [BULLETIN TODAY 4 Dec]	P	1
KBL Agrees on Synchronization of Elections	P	2
Military Source Denies 'Deployment' of Vehicles [BULLETIN TODAY 4 Dec]	P	2
MP Denies Report of Air Force Bombings in Aurora	P	3
Gen Ramos Says Communists on Arms 'Buying Spree'	P	3
Mindanao Violence Attributed to Military Abuses	P	3
Military-Civilian Cooperation in Mindanao Urged	P	4
Police Chief, Woman Killed in Nueva Ecija	P	4



DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 236

6 December 1984

JAPAN

Reaction to USSR Rebuttal of Airspace Protest	C 1
Accord Reached on Steel Exports to U.S.	C 1
Steelmakers Express 'Regret'	C 1
North Korean Sports Officials Invited To Visit	C 2
EPA Spokesman Notes Slowdown in Export Growth	C 2
Takeiri Reelected Komeito Party Chairman	C 3
KYODO Poll Notes Decline in Nakasone Support	C 4

NORTH KOREA

VRPP Urges N-S Economic Collaboration, Exchange	D 1
Organization Leaders Denounce Panmunjom Incident	D 2
Paper Decries Shooting [NODONG SINMUN 4 Dec]	D 3
KCNA Criticizes Port Call of 'Midway' at Pusan	D 5
VRPR Terms Chon's Ban Lifting 'Political Farce'	D 6
Opposition to South's 1985 Budget Bill Noted	D 7
Seoul Workers Protest Follows Coworker's Death	D 7
Trade Union Delegation Leaves for USSR	D 7
Kim Yong-nam Heads For East European Countries	D 8
Yim Chun-chu Attends Publishing House Meeting	D 8

SOUTH KOREA

NAEWOE: PRC Urged Kim To Continue Dialogue	E 1
[THE KOREA HERALD 6 Dec]	
Ministry Frowns On Japanese Planned Tour of North	E 1
[THE KOREA TIMES 6 Dec]	
Italian Lawmakers Group Arrives for Talks	E 2
Blanchard: ROK Could Gain ILO Membership	E 2
KNP Experiences 'Depression' Before Elections	E 2
[THE KOREA TIMES 6 Dec]	
DJP Planner Reveals Tentative Campaign Pledges	E 3
[THE KOREA HERALD 6 Dec]	

MONGOLIA

MPRP Politburo Thanks USSR, Others for Greetings	F 1
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KAMPUCHEA

Hun Sen Concludes 2-Week Visit to Paris	H	1
Heng Samrin Receives Polish Sejm Delegation	H	1
State, Party Leaders Mark MPR National Day	H	2
Protocol on Economic Assistance Signed With MPR	H	2
Chea Sim Sends Message on Lao National Day	H	2
National Victories Noted on KUFNCD Anniversary	H	3
Bou Thang Congratulates Troops on Dangkum Attack	H	4
Commentary Hails Victory	H	5
VODK on Soviet Support for SRV 'Aggression'	H	6
VONADK on Dismissal, Arrest of SRV Officials	H	7

LAOS

Poland's Gertych Heads Sejm Delegation on Visit	I	1
Arrival 1 Dec	I	1
Meeting With Lao Assemblymen	I	1
Call on Souphanouvong	I	1
Leaders Send Greetings on Albanian National Day	I	2
Souphanouvong Greets Yugoslav Counterpart	I	2
Further on National Anniversary Celebrations	I	3
Leaders Attend Rally	I	3
Leaders Visit Hospitals	I	3

THAILAND

Bulgaria's Popov Visits, Talks With Officials	J	1
[BANGKOK POST 4 Dec]		
Role of Kompong Som in USSR Strategy Viewed	J	1
[THE NATION REVIEW 5 Dec]		
Iran Asks Thais To Buy Oil To Improve Trade	J	2
[BANGKOK POST 30 Nov]		
King Warns Against External, Internal Threats	J	2
[BANGKOK POST 4 Dec]		
Direct Communication Urged To Avoid Disputes	J	3
[BANGKOK WORLD 5 Dec]		
Commerce Minister Details New Rice Export Policy	J	4

VIETNAM

Article Traces History of People's Army	K	1
Part I	K	1
Part II	K	5

INDONESIA

Indonesian-Malaysian Border Committee Meets	N	1
Amended Border Agreement Signed	N	1
Yugoslav Economic Cooperation Minister Visits	N	1
Trade Agreement Signed	N	2
Briefs: Ambassador to New Zealand;	N	2
Ambassadors From Senegal, Turkey		

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Mahathir To Visit Libya, Egypt, Mali From 8 Dec O 1

SINGAPORE

Burmese Delegation Calls On Foreign Minister O 1

PHILIPPINES

Opposition Leader Salonga To Return From Exile [AFP] P 1

Convenor Group Urges Unified Opposition Candidate [AFP] P 1

Assemblyman Reacts P 2

Marcos Approves Increase in Wheat Imports P 2

Batasan Committee Probes Overseas Investments P 2

Unusual Troop Movement Declared 'Baseless' P 3

Defense Minister Orders More Stringent Recruiting P 3

Malacanang Guards Detain Military Raiding Team P 3

[BULLETIN TODAY 5 Dec]

Ramos Orders Inquiry P 4

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 237

7 December 1984

JAPAN

Fisheries Agreement Signed With Soviet Union	C 1
More on Steel Talks Accord Reached With U.S.	C 1
Nakasone Gives Support	C 2
Steel Industry Reacts	C 2
6 Diet Members Protest Carl Vinson Port Call	C 3
Sasebo Rally Protests Port Call of Texas	C 3
Official Denies Plans To Mediate Iran-Iraq War	C 3
Nakasone Asks Sakurauchi To Cancel Visit to PRK	C 4
Abe Meets Costa Rican Counterpart; Views Aid	C 4

NORTH KOREA

MAC Member Protests U.S. SR-71 Overflight	D 1
Commentator Denounces U.S. Naval Mobile Exercise	D 1
Chon Tu-hwan Remarks on Corruption Scored	D 2
[NODONG SINMUN 3 Dec]	
Kim Tae-chung Decides To Return to South	D 3
Beijing Embassy Press Conference Reported	D 4
Chong Chun-ki Meets PRC Sports Delegation	D 4
Propagandist Group Calls on USSR's Zimyanin	D 4
O Chin-u Sends Message of Condolence to Ustinov	D 5
Kim Il-song Conveys Sympathies to Ceausescu	D 5
Austrian Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs	D 5
Railway Construction Seen Progressing Apace	D 5
Cooperative Farms Carry Out Account Settlement	D 6

SOUTH KOREA

TONG-A ILBO Examines Walker's Trade Remarks	[5 Dec]	E 1
Kim Man-che Explains '85 Financial Policy		E 2
Chon Calls For Clean Parliamentary Elections		E 3
DKP Faces Problems in Screening of Candidates		E 3
[THE KOREA TIMES 7 Dec]		
Four Reinstated Politicians Join CPD	6 Dec	E 4
[THE KOREA HERALD 7 Dec]		

BURMA

PRC NPC Delegation Arrives in Rangoon	5 Dec	G 1
President Receives Group		G 1
Briefs: FRG Economics Delegation Departs		G 1

KAMPUCHEA

Soviet Culture Center Hosts Anniversary Meeting	H 1
Magazine Calls For Consolidation of KUFNCD	H 1
[MAHASAMAKKI KRAOM TONG RANAKSE]	
Thai Paper Reports KPNLF-SRV Battle in Nong Chan	H 3
[Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD 7 Dec]	

LAOS

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Soviet Amity Delegation	I 1
Delegation Departs	I 1
Further on Polish Sejm Delegation's Visit	I 1
Sisomphon Lovansai Banquet Speech	I 1
Gertych Speaks at Reception	I 4
Call on Kaysone Phomvihan	I 5
Delegation Departs	I 5
PASASON Hails 9th Anniversary of National Day	I 6
[1 Dec]	
First Section of Highway 9 Completed by SRV Team	I 6
Correction to Kaysone Phomvihan Interview	I 7
Briefs: Soviet Printing Memorandum	I 7

THAILAND

Foreign Minister Sitthi Accuses Lao Ambassador	J 1
[BANGKOK POST 4 Dec]	
'Key' SRV Officer Killed in Border Battle	J 2
[BANGKOK WORLD 6 Dec]	
Soviet Ambassador Calls On House Speaker	J 2
[THAI RAT 5 Dec]	
Health Officials React to Protest at U.S. Embassy	J 3
[THE NATION REVIEW 7 Dec]	
Preparations for Possible Refugee Influx	J 3
Officials Deny Knowledge of Cabinet Reshuffle	J 3
[THE NATION REVIEW 7 Dec]	

VIETNAM

Tension Along Northern Border Discussed	K 1
Reportage on European Trip of PRK's Hun Sen	K 3
Meeting at SRV Paris Embassy	K 3
Stopover in Hanoi	K 3
NHAN DAN Hails Hun Sen's Tour	K 4
[6 Dec]	
Surrender of 'Reactionary Khmers' Viewed	K 4
Thai Envoy Hosts Reception for King's Birthday	K 5

PHILIPPINES

Opposition Leader Salonga Interview on Return	P 1
Editorial Lauds Moves To Unify Opposition	P 3
[METRO MANILA TIMES 6 Dec]	
Ruling Party Files Bill To Fill Succession Gap	P 4
[BULLETIN TODAY 6 Dec]	
Ramos: Small Percentage of 'Bad Eggs' in Military	P 5
Ilocos Town Mayor Requests Help To Combat NPA	P 5

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 238

10 December 1984

JAPAN

JCP's Miyamoto Leaves for Talks With Chernenko	C 1
Proposal Points Released	C 1
MITI To Retroactively Enforce Steel Agreement	C 1
Carl Vinson Arrives Amid Rally Protests	C 2
Patrol Ship Seizes South Korean Fishing Boat	C 2
Argentine Foreign Minister Meets Abe, Nakasone	C 3
MITI Minister Promotes Plan To Increase Imports	C 3
Defense Agency To Seek 8.6 Percent Spending Hike	C 3

NORTH KOREA

Kang Song-san Denounces Seoul as Olympic Venue	D 1
U.S.-Japan Naval Exercise Termed 'Provocative'	D 3
[NODONG SINMUN 7 Dec]	
U.S. 'Military Adventurism' Overseas Discussed	D 4
[NODONG SINMUN 6 Dec]	
Chon's Remarks to U.S. Mayor Criticized	D 6
[NODONG SINMUN 7 Dec]	
VRPR: Sin's Instruction 'Scheme' To Provoke War	D 7
NODONG SINMUN Comments on DJP Election Pledges [8 Dec]	D 7
MINJU CHOSON on Kim's Love for Chinese [5 Dec]	D 8
Paper Claims No DPRK Soldiers Sent to Angola	D 9
[NODONG SINMUN 3 Dec]	
O Chin-u Receives Libyan Government Official	D 10
Kim Il-song Meets Tanzanian Party Delegation	D 10
Kim Chong-il Receives Gift	D 11
Propagandists Group Ends Visit to Soviet Union	D 11
Foreign Minister Meets With GDR Leaders [cross-reference]	D 11
Kang Song-san Sends Message to India's Gandhi	D 11

SOUTH KOREA

USSR Said To Seek Military Use of North's Ports	E 1
[SEOUL SINMUN 9 Dec]	
Ministry Requests Lower Tariffs From Japan	E 1
[THE KOREA HERALD 9 Dec]	
Friendship Union Discusses Issues With Japanese	E 2
Parties Agree To Revise Basic Press Law	E 2
[THE KOREA HERALD 8 Dec]	
Reinstated Politicians Vow To Work for Democracy	E 3
[THE KOREA TIMES 9 Dec]	
Another Meeting Held on New Party Formation	E 4
[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Dec]	
Sin Pledges Efforts To Protect Human Rights	E 4
Government To Finance Communist Studies	E 4
[THE KOREA TIMES 9 Dec]	

Yonsei To Punish 5 Students for DJP Intrusion	E 5
[THE KOREA TIMES 8 Dec]	
Petrochemical Industries Lower Oil Product Prices	E 5

KAMPUCHEA

Secretariat Circular Marks VPA Founding Day	H 1
Hun Sen Gives Moscow Press Conference	H 3
TASS Reportage [cross-reference]	H 4
Hun Sen Returns to Phnom Penh From Europe	H 4
Heng Samrin Congratulates Nicaragua's Ortega	H 5

LAOS

Press Release Issued on Polish Group's Visit	I 1
Leaders Receive Message of Thanks From USSR	I 2
Sali Vongkhamso Attends Thai Embassy Reception	I 3
PASASON Comments on Return of Paklai Villagers [5 Dec]	I 3
Sisomphon Lovansai Receives SRV Unionists	I 3
Phnom Penh Group Calls On Vientiane Officials	I 4
Talks Held	I 4

THAILAND

ASEAN Criticizes U.S. Visit to Indochina	J 1
[BANGKOK WORLD 7 Dec]	
'Laos Must Take Initiative' in Talks on Villages	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 8 Dec]	
Spokesman on Sitthi Note to Laos Border Talks	J 2
Prasong on SRV Helicopters in Battambang	J 3
[BANGKOK POST 7 Dec]	
Finance Minister Comments on Reported Reshuffle	J 3
[BANGKOK POST 8 Dec]	
Role of Communist Party in Labor Movement Viewed	J 4
[THE NATION REVIEW 8 Dec]	
SUA's Offer on Terms for Border Peace Rejected	J 4
[BANGKOK WORLD 8 Dec]	
Burmese Troops Retreat [BANGKOK POST 7 Dec]	J 5

VIETNAM

PRC 'Hostile Activities' Along Border Charged	K 1
More Violations Cited	K 2
People's Court To Try PRC, Thai Espionage Cases	K 2
Commentator Analyzes PRC's Southeast Asia Policy	K 2
Pham Van Dong Receives USSR Justice Delegation	K 4
Contract With USSR To Enlarge Factory Signed	K 4
USSR's Dolgikh Awarded Ho Chi Minh Order	K 4
Latvian Delegation Arrives in Hanoi for Visit	K 5
Truong Chinh Sends Condolences to Ceausescu	K 5
Multilateral Payment Agreement Signed With Poland	K 5

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Hayden Censures Continuing French Nuclear Tests M 1

NEW ZEALAND

Lange: French Nuclear Tests 'Utterly Reckless' M 1

PHILIPPINES

President Marcos Presides Over Cabinet Meeting P 1

Indicted Officers in Aquino Case Seek Dismissals P 2

Agrava Members Decline Directive To Help Court P 3

[BUSINESS DAY 7 Dec]

Enrile on Military Need for Demonstration Rules P 3

Marcos Orders Acceleration of Security Plans P 4

Army To Send More Hardware, Troops to Mindanao P 4

2 'Subversives' Behind Davao Rallies Arrested P 4

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 239

11 December 1984

JAPAN

Government Statement on Carl Vinson Port Call	C 1
Enterprises, U.S. Firms Vie for Satellite Deal	C 1
Nakasone Meets Hong Kong's Youde to Discuss Trade	C 2
LDP Kanemaru's 'Secret' Visit to Taiwan Noted	C 2
Trade Group Visits PRC, Meets Li Xiannian [cross-reference]	C 2
JSP Puts Condition on Improving Ties With ROK	C 3
MITI Officials Agree To Limit VCR Exports to EC	C 3
'Large Trade Surplus' Continues in Nov	C 4
Nakasone, NLC Leader Discuss Fiscal 1985 Budget	C 4

NORTH KOREA

WPK Central Committee Plenum Held 4-10 Dec	D 1
NODONG SINMUN Calls For Revolutionary Workstyle [7 Dec]	D 9
NODONG SINMUN Praises 'Immortal Chuche Idea' [1 Dec]	D 11
KULLOJA No 12 Carries Article on Foreign Trade	D 12
Wickham's Visit to South Called War 'Junket'	D 14
Radio Reviews Panmunjom Shooting Incident	D 14
Chong Chun-ki Fetes Soviet Ural People's Chorus	D 16
Soiree Marks Establishment of DPRK-Indian Ties	D 16

SOUTH KOREA

Chon Stresses U.S.-ROK Forces Combat Capability [THE KOREA HERALD 11 Dec]	E 1
Armed Forces Commanders Discuss Combat Readiness	E 1
Chinese Changes Seen Motivated by Pragmatism [THE KOREA TIMES 9 Dec]	E 2
Official Drops Idea of North as Olympic Cohost [THE KOREA HERALD 11 Dec]	E 3
No Tae-u Denies Rumor About Premiership [TONG-A ILBO 10 Dec]	E 4
More Sentenced to Detention for Labor Protest [THE KOREA HERALD 11 Dec]	E 4

MONGOLIA

UNEN Welcomes Forthcoming Soviet-U.S. Talks	F 1
Great Hural Presidium Honors USSR's Dolgikh	F 1
Jagbaral Receives SRV Ambassador's Credentials	F 1
MPR Leaders Greet LDPR on Treaty Anniversary	F 2
Adiyaa Presides Over Youth Festival Meeting	F 2

BURMA

Thai Paper on Heavy Fighting With Mon Forces	G 1
[Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD 10 Dec]	
PRC Railways Minister Leads Delegation to Burma	G 1
President Receives Group	G 1
Bridge Project Discussed	G 1
Delegation Departs	G 2
PRC's NPC Delegation Holds Talks in Rangoon	G 2
Delegation Departs	G 2
Briefs: Delegation Returns From PRC	G 2

KAMPUCHEA

Thai Paper Cites Report on Nong Chan Fighting	H 1
[Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD 10 Dec]	
Vietnamese Reinforcements, Gas Masks Reported	H 1
[Bangkok THAI RAT 10 Dec]	
Heng Samrin Attends Council of State Meeting	H 1
Heng Samrin Receives Message From Chernenko	H 1
Phnom Penh Report on Recent Combat Activities	H 2
VONADK, VODK Battle Report for 30 Nov-6 Dec	H 2
VONADK: Khieu Samphan Message to Sitthi	H 4

LAOS

Letter Proposes Resumption of Thai Talks	I 1
'Talk' Examines Ambitions of Thailand's Athit	I 1
PASASON on Athit Moves Against 'Lao Isan People'	I 2
Leaders Greet Anniversary of Treaty With MPR	I 3
PRK Cultural Delegation Arrives for Visit	I 4
Cultural Cooperation Talks	I 4
PRK Interior Ministry Group Concludes Visit	I 4
Saman Vignaket Attends Youth Union Plenum	I 4
Phoumi Vongvichit at Show	I 5
Editorial Discusses Patriotism, National Defense	I 5

THAILAND

Paper Criticizes U.S. Officials' Indochina Visit	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 11 Dec]	
SRV-PRK Forces Pushed Back Across Border	J 1
[BANGKOK WORLD 11 Dec]	
Refugees Flee as KPNLF Nam Vu Camp Falls	J 2
[THE NATION REVIEW 11 Dec]	
Joint Statement on Trade With Yugoslavia	J 2
[BANGKOK POST 9 Dec]	
Chert Hosts Dinner for Polish Parliamentarian	J 3
[BANGKOK POST 7 Dec]	
Prem Comments on Prince's Visit, Coup Rumors	J 3
[BANGKOK WORLD 11 Dec]	
Diplomatic Conduct Code Draft Completed	J 4
[BANGKOK POST 8 Dec]	

VIETNAM

Nguyen Co Thach Interview on Relations With U.S.	[AFP]	K	1
'Very Tense' Situation Due to Border Attacks		K	2
To Huu on Strengthening Border Provinces		K	3
Nguyen Co Thach Interview on ASEAN, Role in PRK	[Budapest]	K	4
Truong Chinh Discusses Economy, Hungarian Ties	[Budapest]	K	6
To Huu Receives Bulgarian Cultural Delegation		K	7

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Government's Nuclear Test Ban Stance Criticized	M	1
Hawke Makes 'Major Reshuffle' of Cabinet	M	1

INDONESIA

Mokhtar on PNG Relations, Trade With PRC	N	1
Papers Welcome Border Agreement With Malaysia	N	1

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Musa, Indonesia's Murdani Sign Border Pact	O	1	
Prime Minister Mahathir on 4-Day Tour of Libya	[cross-reference]	O	1
Official Charges Party Receiving Foreign Support	O	1	

PHILIPPINES

Demonstrators Protest Human Rights Violations	P	1	
10,000 at Manila Rally	[KYODO]	P	1
Quezon, Cebu Rallies	P	1	
Lawyers Boycott Protests Judiciary 'Subservience'	P	2	
Marcos' Accelerated Security Plan Detailed	P	2	
[BULLETIN TODAY 10 Dec]			
Virata Meets South Korean Foreign Minister	P	3	
Marcos Expresses Optimism for Loan Request	P	3	
Opposition Files Presidential Succession Bill	P	4	
New 'Humanist' Political Party Established	P	4	
TIMES JOURNAL Assesses 'Military Problem'	[10 Dec]	P	4
KBL Members Deny Claim of Insecurity in Mindanao	P	5	
Columnist on NPA 'Tentacles' in Davao City	P	6	
[METRO MANILA TIMES 9 Dec]			
Air Force Chief Orders Return to Basic Training	P	7	



DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 240

12 December 1984

JAPAN

Demonstrators Near Soviet Embassy Arrested	C 1
Business Cooperation Meeting With USSR Held	C 1
Abe Addresses Meeting	C 1
Request for Chemical Plants	C 2
JCP's Miyamoto Meets With USSR's Chernenko [cross-reference]	C 2
Sakurauchi Formally Cancels Kampuchean Visit	C 3
Foreign Minister Meets With Hong Kong Governor	C 4
Tariff Cuts for Developing Nations Outlined	C 4

NORTH KOREA

Radio Plays Heritage Foundation Policy Report	D 1
NODONG SINMUN Opposes 1988 Olympics in Seoul [12 Dec]	D 2
South's Approach to Third World Assailed	D 4
Year-End Police Vigilance in S. Korea Viewed [NODONG SINMUN 10 Dec]	D 6
South War Exercise Said Increasing Tension	D 7
Chon's Crackdown on People Growing Harsher	D 7
Radio Reviews Weekly International Situation	D 8
Importance of South-South Cooperation Stressed [NODONG SINMUN 11 Dec]	D 9
Vice Premier Kim Hwan Receives Thai Delegation	D 11
Pak Song-chol Meets CSSR Ambassador, Libyan Envoy	D 11

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul Seeking To Cope With New U.S. Trade Law	E 1
Chon Urges Military Vigilance at Year's End [THE KOREA HERALD 12 Dec]	E 1
Pyongyang Opposition to Olympics Deemed 'Separatist' YONHAP Report	E 2
N. Korea Promoting Knowledge of English [THE KOREA TIMES 12 Nov]	E 3
Preliminary Technology Talks With Japan To Begin	E 3
Increased Cultural Exchanges With Japan Planned [THE KOREA HERALD 12 Dec]	E 3
KOREA HERALD Views Trade Balance With Japan [12 Dec]	E 4
Japanese Security Companies Seek Business	E 5
S. Korea Firms Seek Overseas Resource Development	E 5
Democracy Council To Help Found New Party	E 6
Crackdown on 'Detrimental' Electoral Activity [THE KOREA HERALD 12 Dec]	E 7
58 Persons Appeal Court Ruling on Funeral Rally [THE KOREA HERALD 12 Dec]	E 7

MONGOLIA

UNEN Article Hails Friendship Treaty With Laos	F	1
Gombojab Delegation Returns Home From Prague	F	1
Lawyers' Group, Human Rights Day Meeting Held	F	1

KAMPUCHEA

Hun Sen Receives Visiting U.S. Veterans Group	H	1
Chea Soth, SRV Delegation Discuss Trade Cooperation	H	1
Foreign Minister Hun Sen Receives WPC President	H	1

LAOS

Thai Troops Shell Border Village 10 Dec	I	1
PASASON Article on Dismissal of Thailand's Athit [8 Dec]	I	1
PASASON on Thai Refusal To Resume Talks [11 Dec]	I	2
PRC Delegation's Visit to Thailand Discussed	I	2
Phoumi Vongvichit Delivers Speech on Culture	I	4
First Installment	I	4
Second Installment	I	5
Third Installment	I	6
Fourth Installment	I	6
Hanoi Financial Delegation Visits Vientiane	I	8

THAILAND

Report on New Influx of Kampuchean Refugees [BANGKOK POST 12 Dec]	J	1
Military Reports SRV Unit Cross Border [AFP]	J	1
Prime Minister Prem Receives PRC's NPC Delegation [BANGKOK POST 12 Dec]	J	2
Athit Ready To Retire 'If No Longer Needed' [BANGKOK POST 12 Dec]	J	2

VIETNAM

U.S. Congressional Group Meets Pham Van Dong	K	1
AFP Report on Talks	K	1
U.S. Vietnam War Veterans Meet Foreign Minister	K	2
120 PRC-, Thai-Linked Rebels Rounded Up [KYODO]	K	2
AFP Report	K	3
Indochinese Geological Conference Opens	K	3
Trade Protocol With Czechoslovakia Signed [CTK]	K	3
Chu Huy Man Marks 40th VPA Anniversary	K	4
Chairs Conference	K	4
Lauds Victories [NHAN DAN 11 Dec]	K	5

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Left Wing 'Beneficiaries' of Cabinet Reshuffle	M	1
Peacock Reelected as Liberal Party Leader	M	2

PHILIPPINES

Marcos Meets Visiting ROK Foreign Minister	P 1
Lawyers Demand Reform of Judicial System	P 1
Marcos Urges Quick Results in Agricultural Plan	P 1
Labor Minister Ople on NEW YORK TIMES Article	P 2
Columnist Forecasts Labor Minister's Resignation	P 2
[BULLETIN TODAY 11 Dec]	
Batasan Group Urges Action in Mindanao Situation	P 3
Several People Gunned Down in Recent Incidents	P 4
[TIMES JOURNAL 11 Dec]	

DEMONSTRATORS NEAR SOVIET EMBASSY ARRESTED

OW120523 Tokyo KYODO in English 0516 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO -- Police Wednesday arrested three rightists demonstrating near the Soviet Embassy here against a private-level business cooperation committee meeting. The three were arrested on charge of obstructing policemen's duties. Twenty-five rightist groups mobilized 202 rightists for their demonstration against the Japan-Soviet business forum near the Soviet Embassy and hotel New Otani where the committee opened a three-day discussion Wednesday morning.

BUSINESS COOPERATION MEETING WITH USSR HELD

Abe Addresses Meeting

OW120309 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO -- A senior Japanese businessman, in a keynote speech to a Japan-Soviet business cooperation committee meeting, Wednesday called for expansion of bilateral trade on a "higher and diversified" level. In the speech, Hiroshi Anzai, board chairman of the Tokyo Gas Co., also said expansion of Japan-Soviet trade requires "normalized" relations between the two countries.

This obviously referred to the present chilly relations between Tokyo and Moscow -- a combined product of the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the shooting down of a South Korean airliner by Soviet missiles last year, and the continued Soviet occupation of four small Japanese islands off Hokkaido, a major island in northern Japan. The Afghan incident triggered Japanese economic sanctions against the Soviet Union and as a result the private economic committee held no joint session since 1979.

Two-way trade has been declining since it peaked at 5.58 billion dollars in 1982. It is likely to drop below 4 billion dollars this year. In the speech, Anzai said Japan and the Soviet Union can take advantage of their economic potential and geographical proximity to expand economic relations beyond cooperation currently promoted in joint development of Soviet natural resources.

Some 120 Japanese businessmen took part in the opening session of the three-day meeting held at a Tokyo hotel. A 70-man Soviet delegation was led by Vice Foreign Trade Minister Vladimir N. Sushkov. The committee is scheduled to hold nine subcommittee sessions Thursday.

A joint communique will be issued Friday after the end of the meeting, according to a Japanese official. Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who also addressed the opening session, said he valued highly the expansion of the bilateral trade and economic relations which, he said, would help promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries. He called on the Soviet delegates at the meeting to deepen their understanding on the territorial issue.

Japan and the Soviet Union are still unable to conclude a peace treaty because the territorial problem remains unsolved. The territorial problem is the basic political issue between Japan and the Soviet Union, he said.

Elaborating, Anzai stressed the need for realizing the return of the four small Japanese islands off Hokkaido from Soviet occupation as a precondition for concluding a peace treaty between the two countries, which, he said, serves as a basis for normal Russo-Japanese relations.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS*****Asia & Pacific*****Vol IV No 241****13 December 1984****JAPAN**

Abe Views Plan To Provide Nuclear Carrier Port	C 1
Government Formally Approves Grants to Africa	C 1
Agricultural Cooperation Pact Signed With Brazil	C 1
Fiscal 1985 Budget Planning Reaches 'Impasse'	C 2

NORTH KOREA

NODONG SINMUN Condemns Chon-Wickham Talks [13 Dec]	D 1
VRPR Comments	D 2
Military Commanders Meeting in South Criticized	D 2
VRPR Decries Meeting	D 2
Kim Pok-sin Meets Chinese Light Industry Experts	D 3
GDR Envoy Conveys Honecker Letter to Kim	D 3
Chairman of Austrian CP Meets WPK Delegation	D 3
Chong Chun-ki Fetes UN Under Secretary General	D 4
Plenary Meeting Decisions Implementation Urged	D 4
[NODONG SINMUN 13 Dec]	

SOUTH KOREA

Yi Chin-hui Speaks on North's Tactics, Abilities	E 1
[THE KOREA HERALD 13 Dec]	
Acting Premier Stresses National Power, Unity	E 2
Industries Seek To Advance Into Caribbean Region	E 2
[THE KOREA TIMES 13 Dec]	
Dissident Groups Name Delegates for Negotiation	E 3
[THE KOREA TIMES 13 Dec]	

MONGOLIA

MPRP Central Committee Plenum Held 11 Dec	F 1
Plenum Adopts Resolutions	F 1
Profile of New MPRP Central Committee Secretary	F 2
Profile of New MPRP Politburo Member Sodnom	F 2
MPR People's Great Hural Session Opens 12 Dec	F 3
Batmonh, Sodnom Elected	F 3
Dugersuren Discusses MPR Foreign Policy	F 3

KAMPUCHEA

U.S. Congressional Group Talks With Hun Sen	H 1
Thai Paper Reports Fall of Southern KPNLF Camp	H 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 13 Dec]	
VODK on Vietnamese Dry Season Offensive	H 2

LAOS

Vientiane Protests to UN Over Thai Acts	I 1
Thai Side Urged To Resume Border Talks	I 1
Vientiane-Phnom Penh Twin Cities Ceremony Held	I 2

THAILAND

UN Envoy Rebuts Lao 'Slandorous Allegations'	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 13 Dec]	
Military Denies Link With SRV Rebel Group	J 1
[BANGKOK POST 13 Dec]	
PRC's Ye Fei Heads Delegation's Thai Visit	J 1
Discusses PRK Issue [THE NATION REVIEW 12 Dec]	J 1
Meets With Sitthi [BANGKOK POST 13 Dec]	J 2
Editorial on PRC Role in Border Situation	J 3
[THE NATION REVIEW 13 Dec]	

VIETNAM

PRC Leadership Called 'Betrayers' of Socialism	K 1
Soviet Justice Minister's Visit Summarized	K 1
Officials Greet Delegation Returning From Albania	K 2
Hanoi Party Committee Sets Forth 1985 Tasks	K 2
General Writes in TAP CHI CONG SAN on VPA Growth	K 3
NHAN DAN Article on Transformation Problems	K 4
Conclusion of NHAN DAN Article	K 5
CPV Greet's Jamaican Working People's Congress	K 6

INDONESIA

Mokhtar, PNG's Namaliu Ratify Border Accord	N 1
Namaliu on Border Issue [Melbourne]	N 1
Suharto Receives ROK Foreign Minister Yi [YONHAP]	N 1
Muslim Group Claims No Sociopolitical Ties	N 2

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Musa Hitam Calls for Self-Reliance in Defense	O 1
Prime Minister Mahathir Begins Egypt Visit [cross-reference]	O 1

SINGAPORE

Lee Kuan Yew, Cabinet Members Returned Unopposed	O 1
Lee Kuan Yew Message Marks PAP Anniversary	O 2
[THE STRAITS TIMES 11 Dec]	

PHILIPPINES

Security Council Approves Counterinsurgency Plan	P 1
Opposition Members Leave Succession Committee	P 1
UNIDO Discusses Organizational Modifications	P 1

Corazon Aquino Asked To Lead Opposition Body	[AFP]	P	2
Columnist on Marcos' Anti-Insurgency Campaign		P	3
[TIMES JOURNAL 11 Dec]			
TIMES JOURNAL Notes Anti-NPA Campaign in Cebu	[12 Dec]	P	4
Davao Situation Termed 'Undeclared State of War'	[AFP]	P	5
41 Killed in Drive Against Rebels in Mindanao		P	6
Release of Captive Missionaries in Sulu Aborted		P	6

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRUNEI

ROK Foreign Minister Meets With Sultan	[YONHAP]	Q	1
Government Not To Invest in Private Companies		Q	1
[THE BORNEO BULLETIN 1 Dec]			

ABE VIEWS PLAN TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR CARRIER PORT

OW121229 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO -- Japan indicated Wednesday it may be open to a plan to provide home ports to U.S. nuclearpowered aircraft carriers. Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told a Diet committee the government would not reject such a plan only because they were nuclear-powered.

The foreign minister, replying to opposition questioners, said the government did not know whether the United States has a plan to use Yokosuka or Sasebo as home port for a nuclearpowered aircraft carrier.

Abe told a lower house committee that the government could not refuse the crewmen and their relatives to reside in Yokosuka or Sasebo on the grounds their ships are nuclearpowered.

GOVERNMENT FORMALLY APPROVES GRANTS TO AFRICA

OW110925 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO -- The government Tuesday gave a formal go-ahead for 22 billion yen (89 million dollars) in grants to drought-stricken African countries. The outright grants, the third in a series for the current fiscal year, include 5.74 billion yen to help finance food supplies and related projects.

This has brought to 114 billion yen (462 million dollars) Japan's total committed financial assistance to these countries for the year ending next March. Specific assistance plans will be worked out through negotiations with the recipient countries.

The money for food-related projects forms part of 150 million dollars Japan earlier pledged to provide under international food assistance programs for the countries, including an additional 50 million dollars for the year. Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe promised during his tour of three African countries last month. Projects under consideration include the construction of a 1 billion yen (4 million dollar) grain warehouse in Zambia. Food transportation, farmland development and waterway construction projects are also eyed, officials said.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION PACT SIGNED WITH BRAZIL

OW111135 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO -- The Japanese and Brazilian Governments Tuesday signed an agreement on cooperation in a Brazilian agricultural development program. The program calls for Japanese cooperation, both governmental and private, in development of a vast bush zone in central Brazil, covering a total area of about 180 million hectares, for growing soybeans, corn, wheat, coffee and citrus.

The Japanese Government officially pledged its cooperation in the project when Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo visited Japan last May. On a private level, Japan has been promoting cooperation on an experimental basis at a 50,000-hectare site since 1979, investing about 7 billion yen (28.3 million dollars) so far.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Asia & Pacific

Vol IV No 242

14 December 1984

JAPAN

Abe Urges Unconditional Visit by Gromyko	C 1
USSR Official on Possibility of Joint Ventures	C 1
Officials React to U.S. Communications Request	C 1
Agreement Made To Import Some U.S. Fish Products	C 2
Officials Agree on Steel Shipments to PRC	C 2
MITI Issues White Paper on Economic Cooperation	C 3
New Measures of Further Opening Market Adopted	C 4

NORTH KOREA

Yi Song-nok Proposes 17 Jan Economic Talks	D 1
Red Cross Sends Notice to South on Talks	D 1
Crash of U.S. Helicopter, Plane Reported	D 1
VRPR Examines Kim Yong-sam's Remarks on Party	D 2
Kim Il-song Sees Ural Chorus Performance	D 2
Visiting Thai Group Meets Government Leaders	D 3
Talks With Kim Hwan	D 3
Ho Tam Meets Delegation	D 3
Kang Song-san Receives Phichai	D 3
Group Calls on Kim	D 3
UN Under Secretary General Visits Pyongyang	D 4
Meets Kang Song-san	D 4
UN Officials' Party	D 4
Hwang Chang-yop, WPK Group Visit Austria	D 4
People React to Plenary Meeting Decision	D 5

SOUTH KOREA

Disputes Among Groups Delay Party Negotiations	E 1
[THE KOREA HERALD 14 Dec]	
Students Boycott Exam for DJP Raiders' Release	E 1
[THE KOREA TIMES 14 Dec]	
Costa Rican Foreign Minister Visits Seoul	E 1
Received by Chon	E 1
Yi Sang-ok Meets Visitor	E 2
Paper Appraises Situation of North's Economy	E 2
[THE KOREA HERALD 14 Dec]	

MONGOLIA

Lubsanchultem To Chair Parliamentary Group	F 1
Dejid Speaks at Work Discipline Conference	F 1

KAMPUCHEA

Hun Sen Discusses Relations With Sweden, France	H	1
SPK on Thai Operations During Week Ending 6 Dec	H	7
Summary of Military Action During Past Week	H	7
Heng Samrin Receives Visiting WPC Delegation	H	8

LAOS

Radio Reports U.S. Congressional Groups Visit	I	1
Defense Ministry Issues Instruction on VPA Day	I	1
New Economic Management Mechanism Viewed	I	1
Phoumi Vongvichit Receives French Correspondent	I	3
Saman Vignaket Attends Youth Union Closing	I	3

THAILAND

Thai Spokesmen Comment on Spy Charge by SRV [AFP]	J	1
Further Reaction to Trial [THE NATION REVIEW 14 Dec]	J	1
Over 32,000 Flee Fighting in Kampuchea [THE NATION REVIEW 14 Dec]	J	1
Athit Approves Release of Suspected Communists [BANGKOK POST 14 Dec]	J	2
Athit Attends Ceremony for Communist Defectors [THE NATION REVIEW 14 Dec]	J	2

VIETNAM

Trial of 'Serious' Espionage Case Begins 14 Dec	K	1
Further Details	K	1
PRC, Thailand Step Up Collusion Against Indochina	K	3
Reportage on Recent PRC Incursions in Lang Son	K	3
Pham Van Dong Greets New MPR Prime Minister	K	4
Truong Chinh Congratulates MPR Chairman	K	4
NHAN DAN on Important Military Duties of Youths [6 Dec]	K	4

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Peace Protestors Arrested at U.S. Naval Office	M	1
Hayden Discusses Donation of Rice to Vietnam	M	1
New Labor Ministry Takes Office in Canberra	M	1

INDONESIA

ROK's Foreign Minister Yi Gives Press Conference	N	1
Further Details	N	1

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

VOPM Commemorates MCP Founding Anniversary	O	1
Conclusion of Article	O	4

PHILIPPINES

'Key Witness' in Aquino Case Arrested in Manila	[AFP]	P 1
Students Protest at U.S. Military Facility		P 2
Labor Minister Tenders Resignation to Marcos		P 2
[BUSINESS DAY 13 Dec]		
Foreign Minister Denounces IMF Finance Policy		P 2
Bank Issues Circular on Holding Foreign Exchange		P 3
[BUSINESS DAY 13 Dec]		
Marcos Orders Monitoring of Government Spending		P 4
Leaders Sign Agreement To Unite Liberal Party		P 4
[BUSINESS DAY 13 Dec]		
Paper Relates Humanist Party Principles		P 4
[ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 4 Dec]		
Army 'Fears' NPA-CPP Political Warfare Offensive		P 5
[METRO MANILA TIMES 13 Dec]		
Soldiers Killed in NPA Davao, Zamboanga Ambushes		P 6
Soldiers Attack Zamboanga Police Headquarters	[KYODO]	P 6

ABE URGES UNCONDITIONAL VISIT BY GROMYKO

OW131241 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 13 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shitaro Abe told an upper house committee meeting Thursday if Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko would visit Japan on a friendship basis without setting down prior conditions, results would be achieved. Commenting on the long pending Japan visit by Gromyko, Abe told the upper house Foreign Affairs Committee Thursday "it is unusual that conditions must be set down for fixed bilateral talks at the foreign-ministerial level."

Although the Japanese Government has long desired a Tokyo visit by the Soviet foreign minister to mend relations which deteriorated following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Gromyko has insisted on concrete conditions to make such a trip worthwhile. Moreover, Gromyko has been quoted as saying now is not a proper time to visit Tokyo because there is no room for discussion of the Japanese northern islands territorial claim. Soviet Foreign Ministry officials have called for a bilateral economic agreement as a possible "condition."

Abe also told the committee the Japanese Government has not veered from its basic policy of aiming for a resolution of its demand for return of the northern islands, seized by the Soviet Union at the end of the Pacific War, and the conclusion of a peace treaty. "Although we differ in our political systems, we are nevertheless neighboring nations and I hope for progress through talks," he said adding, "It is with this in mind that we await with great expectation a Gromyko visit in the next year."

USSR OFFICIAL ON POSSIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURES

OW131357 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 13 KYODO -- A high-ranking Soviet trade official indicated Thursday his country is ready to study the possibility of establishing joint ventures with foreign capital and free trade zones. Vice Foreign Trade Minister I.T. Grishin told the second-day session of the Japan-Soviet Business Cooperation Committee that he considers it necessary to study whether it is possible for the Soviet Union to take such measures as part of industrial cooperation with other countries. The establishment of joint ventures and free trade zones is currently prohibited in the Soviet Union.

Grishin made the statement in response to a Japanese proposal for such Soviet actions, made during the first-day session Wednesday. Soviet delegates to the meeting also expressed hope for holding negotiations with Japan on the conclusion of a long-term trade agreement as the basis of expanding bilateral economic and trade relations.

OFFICIALS REACT TO U.S. COMMUNICATIONS REQUEST

OW131317 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 13 KYODO -- The United States has formally asked Japan to give U.S. communications apparatus makers greater access to the Japanese market when Japan's domestic communications services are decontrolled next April, government officials said Thursday. The six-point request, received through diplomatic channels, calls for, among other things, participation of representatives of American firms in a Japanese organization for approval and inspection of communications apparatus after the planned liberalization through transfer of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corp. (NTT) to a private status, they said.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****Asia & Pacific**

Vol IV No 243

17 December 1984

JAPAN

Economic Cooperation Meeting With USSR Continues	C 1
Sakhalin Projects Urged	C 1
Annual Dialogue To Resume	C 1
Joint Statement Issued	C 2
USSR Economic Pact To Depend on Gromyko Visit	C 2
USSR Seeks Quota Reduction During Fishery Talks	C 3
Abe To Urge Shultz To Advance Tariff Cuts	C 3
Ministry Announces Cultural Exchanges With ROK	C 3
House of Councillors Committee Clears NTT Bills	C 4
Finance Ministry on Fiscal 1985 Expenditures	C 4
Nakasone Pledges To Uphold Defense Ceiling	C 5

NORTH KOREA

Olympic Chairman Sends Letter to IOC Official	D 1
South Minister's Talk on Seoul Olympics Decried	D 3
[NODONG SINMUN 14 Dec]	
Government Opens General Mission in Paris	D 4
French Construction Business Delegation Arrives	D 4
Pyongyang Protests 15 Dec SR-71 Overflight	D 4
Commentary Criticizes Wickham's Visit to South	D 5
Paper Denounces South Army Commanders Meeting	D 7
[NODONG SINMUN 14 Dec]	
South's Human Rights Day Activities Ridiculed	D 8
[NODONG SINMUN 15 Dec]	
Younger Kim Criticized 'Communist Manifesto,' Marx [VRPR]	D 9
Kim Pok-sin Heads Delegation to Soviet Union [cross-reference]	D 11
Kim Il-song Meets Soviet Chorus Members	D 12
Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Visits Bulgaria [cross-reference]	D 12
Kim Il-song Congratulates MPR's Batmonh	D 12

SOUTH KOREA

North Accepts Seoul's Proposals on Talks	E 1
[THE KOREA TIMES 16 Dec]	
Kim Said To Ask PRC Support for Retaliation	E 2
[TONG-A ILBO 14 Dec]	
Government Regrets French Steps Toward North	E 2
Trade Sanctions Considered	E 3
South, North, Japan, PRC To Hold Soccer Games	E 4
[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Dec]	
Opposition To Inaugurate New Party Soon	E 5
[THE KOREA HERALD 16 Dec]	
Kim Tae-chung Announces Plans To Return to Seoul [KYODO]	E 5
Paper Urges Appointment of New Prime Minister	E 6
[THE KOREA TIMES 15 Dec]	
KOREA HERALD Calls for Fair, Clean Elections [16 Dec]	E 7

MONGOLIA

Jasray Named Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman	[UNEN]	F	1
Hural Adopts Statement on People's Right to Peace		F	1

KAMPUCHEA

KPNLF Radio Says Lao Troops Supported SRV Sweep	[AFP]	H	1
SPK Reports Arrival of U.S. Congressmen		H	1
Reportage on GDR National Front Delegation Visit		H	1
Arrival in Phnom Penh		H	1
Talks Held With KUFNCD		H	1
Delegations Meet		H	2
Chea Sim Receives Delegation		H	2
Army Paper Calls For Strengthening of Militia		H	3
[KANGTOAP PADEVOAT]			
SRV Military Attache Holds News Conference		H	4

LAOS

Soviet Justice Ministry Delegation Visits	I	1
Souphanouvang Receives Minister	I	1
Cooperation Memorandum Signed	I	1
Vientiane on Progress of Census in Bolikhamsai	I	1
Phoumi Vongvichit Meets PRK Team; Accord Signed	I	2
Delegation Ends Visit	I	2

THAILAND

Officials React to Espionage Trial in Vietnam	J	1
SRV Charges Denied [THE NATION REVIEW 16 Dec]	J	1
Charges Termed 'Nonsense' [MATUPHUM 17 Dec]	J	1
SRV Forces Penetrate Border, Fight Marines	J	2
[BANGKOK POST 15 Dec]		
Fighting at Hill 527 [THAI RAT 16 Dec]	J	2
Efforts To Retake Hill 527 [THAI RAT 17 Dec]	J	2
Air Force Chief Reaffirms Decision To Buy F-16's	J	3
[BANGKOK WORLD 17 Dec]		
U.S. Role in Guiding Nation's Democracy Viewed	J	4
[MATICHON 14 Dec]		

VIETNAM

Correspondent's Report on Espionage Case, Trial	K	1
Correspondent on 'Ringleaders' of Espionage Case	K	1
Part I	K	1
Part II	K	3
PRC Provocations in Ha Tuyen, Lang Son Reported	K	6
'Heightened Vigilance' Urged in Border Provinces	K	6
Thailand Increases Support to Kampuchians	K	7
Army Paper Condemns Thai Shelling of Lao Hamlets	K	8
[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 16 Dec]		
Conference, Article Mark VPA Anniversary	K	9
VFF Holds Conference	K	9
QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Article [12 Dec]	K	9

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Hawke Supports Hayden Remarks on New Caledonia M 1

NEW ZEALAND

Lange: Visits by U.S. Nuclear Ships To Be Barred [AFP] M 1

INDONESIA

ROK Foreign Minister on Bilateral Trade Ties N 1

Meeting With Murdani N 1

Mokhtar on PNG, Australia, Islamic Conference N 1

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Iranian Efforts To Export Revolution Viewed O 1
[NEW STRAITS TIMES 13 Dec]

PHILIPPINES

IMF Approves Standby Loan; Marcos Sends Thanks P 1

Marcos Orders Long-Term Development Targets P 1

Marcos Rejects Labor Minister's Resignation P 2

Ramos Sends 'Antiguerrilla' Battalion to Davao P 2

Columnist Notes Mudslinging Among Opposition P 2

[BUSINESS DAY 14 Dec]

Convenors' Group Program Termed 'U.S. Ploy' P 4

[ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 10 Dec]

Gen Ver Urges Armed Forces To Support Ramos [AFP] P 5

Ramos' Orders on Luzon Counterinsurgency Noted P 6

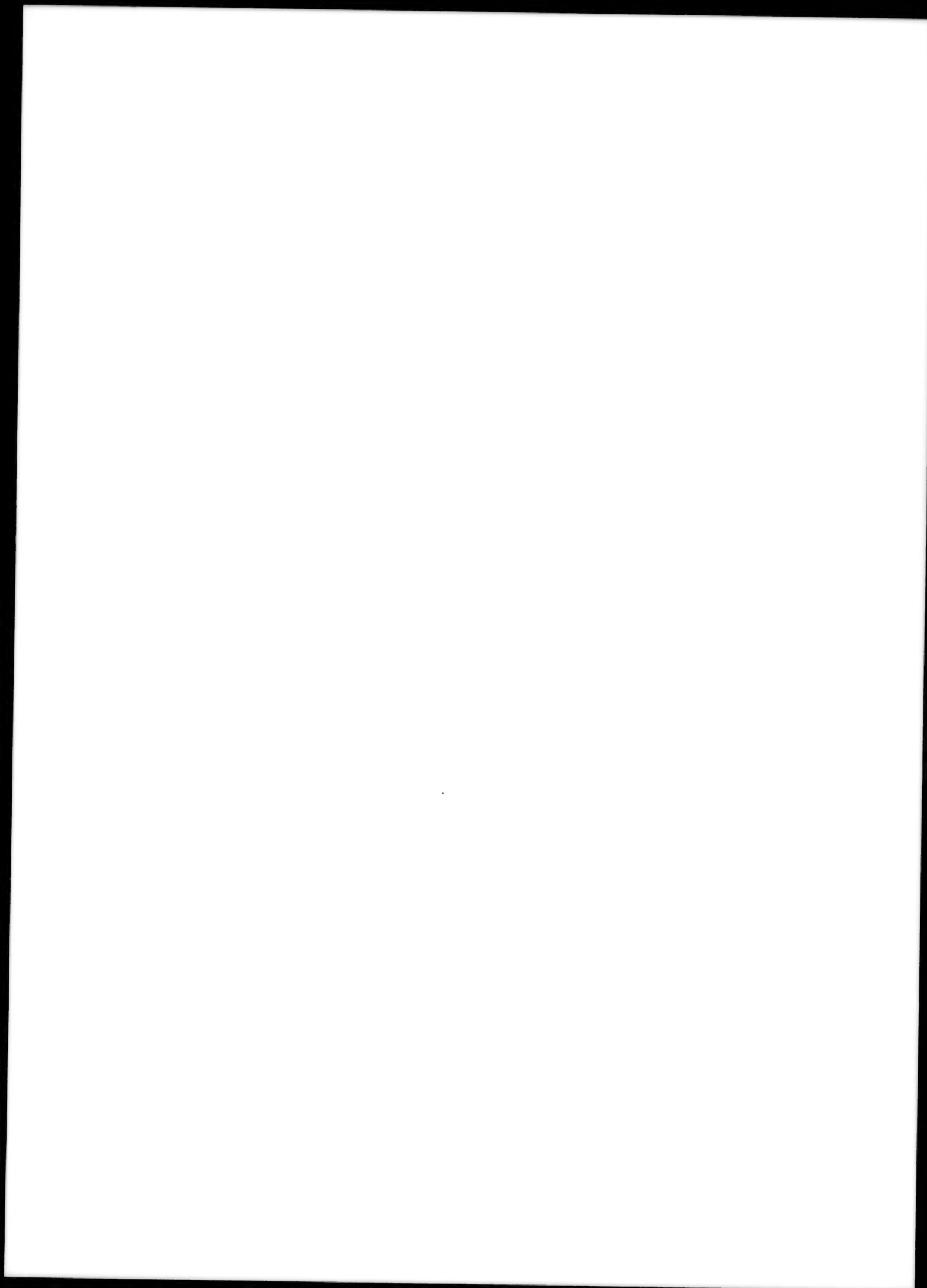
Ramos Confident Military Can Combat Insurgency P 6

Gen Ramos Urged To Begin Clean Up With PSC P 6

[BULLETIN TODAY 13 Dec]

NPA Challenge in Davao City Suburb Discussed P 7

[BUSINESS DAY 14 Dec]



FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 244

18 December 1984

JAPAN

Washington Envoy Meets Shultz, Baldrige	C 1
JCP Leader Miyamoto Returns Home From Moscow	C 1
Communique Issued [cross-reference]	C 2
Danish Foreign Minister Meets Abe, Nakasone	C 2
Nakasone, West Australia Premier Discuss Trade	C 3
Moriuama Resigns From Pro-South African Group	C 3
Abe Appoints Envoy for Northern Islands Issue	C 3

NORTH KOREA

French Parliamentary Member Arrives for Visit	D 1
CPSU Propaganda Group Arrives in Pyongyang	D 1
WPK Reception	D 1
Kang Song-san Fetes Thai Deputy Prime Minister	D 1
Kim Hwan Sees Group Off	D 2
Paper Claims DJP Intent on Long-Term Reign [NODONG SINMUN 16 Dec]	D 2
Workers Fulfill Export Goods Production Targets	D 3
NODONG SINMUN Stresses Material Supply Work [15 Dec]	D 5

SOUTH KOREA

Reaction to Announcement of North-South Talks	E 1
Minister Predicts Success [KYONGHYANG SINMUN 17 Dec]	E 1
KOREA HERALD Editorial [18 Dec]	E 1
Paper Criticizes French Approach Toward North [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Dec]	E 2
Foreign Ministry Report on Nonaligned Diplomacy	E 4
Committee Proposes 'New Korea Democratic Party' [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Dec]	E 5
Former Politicians Form 'National Revival' Group	E 5
Assembly Approves Revisions in Labor Law [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Dec]	E 6
Outcome of Session Viewed [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Dec]	E 6

MONGOLIA

UNEN Hails Results of MPRP, Hural Sessions	F 1
MONTSAME Commentator	F 1

KAMPUCHEA

Thai Paper Reports Battle for Nong Chan Camp [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 18 Dec]	H 1
BANGKOK WORLD Reports Tanks, Plane Near Border [18 Dec]	H 1
Bou Thang Leaves for VPA Anniversary Celebration	H 1
Defense Minister Bou Thang Greets Van Tien Dung	H 2
Radio Article Marks Vietnamese Army Anniversary	H 2

Heng Samrin Greets Polish Central Committee	H	3
Hun Sen Addresses Diplomacy Course Graduates	H	3
Leaders Greet Kaysone Phomivhan on Birthday	H	3
VONADK, VODK Battle Reports for 7-13 Dec	H	4

LAOS

Souphanouvong Receives Phnom Penh Delegation	I	1
Phnom Penh City Delegation Ends Visit, Departs	I	1
Irrigation Cooperation Discussed With Vietnam	I	1

THAILAND

Editorial Condemns Ho Chi Minh City 'Show Trial'	J	1
[BANGKOK POST 18 Dec]		
SIAM RAT Terms Lao Border Dispute 'Hopeless' [14 Dec]	J	1
S. Korean Foreign Minister Yi Begins Visit [YONHAP]	J	3
Officials Denounce Japanese Tariff Plan	J	3
[THE NATION REVIEW 15 Dec]		
Chawalit's Stance on Politics in Military Viewed	J	4
[BANGKOK POST 15 Dec]		
Textile Workers Protest U.S. Import Barriers	J	5
[BANGKOK WORLD 15 Dec]		

VIETNAM

Espionage Case Trial Continues in Hanoi	K	1
Report on Third Day	K	1
Sentences Issued [AFP]	K	1
'Indictment' Presented	K	2
AFP Report on MIA's	K	5
NHAN DAN Article	K	5
USSR, Cuban, Lao, PRK Groups To Visit for Army Day	K	6
Officials at Activities Marking 40th Army Day	K	6
Meet Army Representatives	K	6
Radio Reports Meeting of Hanoi Party Committee	K	7
Vu Quang Receives Japanese Party Official	K	7
Pham Van Dong Meets With WPC's Romesh Chandra	K	8
State Council Institutes New Military Order	K	8
Vo Van Kiet Speaks on Private Industry, Trade	K	9

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

'Rift' in Ties With U.S. Denied by Embassy	M	1
Mitterrand Remark on Aborigines Draws Protest	M	1

PHILIPPINES

Economic Letter of Intent to IMF Reported	P	1
[BUSINESS DAY 17 Dec]		
Bankers Laud Foreign, IMF Credit in Recovery	P	4
Marcos Predicts Economic Growth in 1985	P	5
Opposition 'Convenor Group' Releases Statement	P	6
[VERITAS 9 Dec]		
Potential Presidential Candidates Gather	P	7
[BULLETIN TODAY 17 Dec]		

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 245

19 December 1984

JAPAN

U.S. Suggestions To Narrow Trade Gap Viewed	C	1
Nakasone Meets Governor Thompson of Illinois	C	2
Panel Urges Review of Defense Budget Ceiling	C	2

NORTH KOREA

Kim Pok-sin Meets With Tikhonov in Moscow	D	1
Paper Rebuts South Culture Minister's Remarks [NODONG SINMUN 18 Dec]	D	1
Kim Yong-sam on Chon's Term, Elections	D	2
Pak Song-chol Attends Memorial Meeting	D	3
Paper Commemorates Return of Koreans From Japan [NODONG SINMUN 16 Dec]	D	3
Kang Song-san Greet's Mongolian Counterpart	D	5

SOUTH KOREA

Reaction to French Upgrading of North Mission	E	1
CHUNGANG ILBO Editorial [18 Dec]	E	1
TONG-A ILBO Reaction [17 Dec]	E	2
11th Assembly Passes Press Law Revision, Others [THE KOREA HERALD 19 Dec]	E	3
Paper Analyzes Move To Form New Political Party [CHOSON ILBO 15 Dec]	E	4
TV Makers Unhappy With Anti-Dumping Margin	E	5

MONGOLIA

Batmonh Speech to Central Committee Plenum	F	1
Budget Increase To Improve Education System	F	8
MRYU Holds 4th Plenum; Namsrai Attends	F	8

KAMPUCHEA

Thai Paper Says Part of Nong Chan Camp Retaken [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 19 Dec]	H	1
VODK Interviews Field Commander on Fighting	H	1

LAOS

PASASON Comments on Thai Note to United Nations 'Special' Solidarity With Vietnamese Army Noted Phoumi Vongvichit Receives SRV Film Delegation	[15 Dec]	I 1 I 1 I 2
--	----------	-------------------

THAILAND

Sitthi Receives S. Korean Foreign Minister	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 19 Dec]	
Troops Retake Ubon Border Hills From SRV Force	J 1
[MATICHON 19 Dec]	
Paper Cites TASS on U.S. in Southeast Asia	J 1
[MATICHON 13 Dec]	

VIETNAM

Hanoi Reports End of Espionage Case Trial	K 1
VNA on Verdicts	K 2
NHAN DAN Commentary [19 Dec]	K 4
Hanoi on People's Reaction	K 5
2000 'Counterrevolutionaries' To Be Tried [AFP]	K 6
Truong Chinh Speaks on VPA's 40th Anniversary	K 7
CPSU Officials Visit, Talk With Hoang Tung	K 8
Dominican Communist Party Delegation Arrives	K 8
NHAN DAN on Transformation of Private Trade [10 Dec]	K 9
Vo Van Kiet Article on Trade Transformation	K 11
Part I [NHAN DAN 10, 11 Dec]	K 11
Conclusion of Article [NHAN DAN]	K 16
Council of Ministers on Management of Industry	K 20

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Further Details on Alleged 'Rift' in U.S. Ties	M 1
--	-----

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Musa Hitam Suggests MCA Opt Out of Front	O 1
MCA Reaction to Remarks [NEW STRAITS TIMES 17 Dec]	O 1

PHILIPPINES

Zamboanga District Military Command Revamped	P 1
Request for Relief of Army in Zamboanga City	P 1
26 NPA Members Surrender in Davao City	P 1
Tanodbayan Sets Deadline for Ver, Others	P 2
Marcos Warns Against Overpricing Commodities	P 2
Buffer Stocks of Rice Expected Normal by Mid 85	P 2
Taiwan Rice Purchase Off; Stocks Sufficient	P 2
Retirement of 4 Generals, 1 Commodore Approved	P 3
Liberal Party Official Works To Unify Opposition	P 3
Opposition MP's Seek Voter Registration Change	P 3
[BULLETIN TODAY 18 Dec]	
Perez Scores Opposition Legalizing Communists	P 4
[MANILA TIMES 18 Dec]	
Paper Reports Soviet Journalist's Davao Visit	P 5
[MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR 6 Dec]	

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 246

20 December 1984

JAPAN

Government Comments on U.S. UNESCO Withdrawal	C 1
LDP Adopts Guidelines for 'Austere' 1985 Budget	C 1
Canada's Clark Begins Visit, Negotiations	C 1
Supports New Trade Talks	C 1
Confers With Abe	C 2
Meets With Nakasone	C 2
Nuclear Energy Talks With China Extended	C 3
70 Aichi Prefecture Youths To Be Sent To DPRK	C 3

NORTH KOREA

Tikhonov Receives Kim Pok-sin in Moscow	D 1
Chon's Inspection of Frontline Units Criticized [VRPR]	D 1
VRPR Hits Chon on French Upgrading of Mission	D 1
Kim Yong-sam Supports Kim Pae-chung's Return [VRPR]	D 2
NODONG SINMUN Comments on South's Stand on Talks [18 Dec]	D 2
Increase in Consumer Goods Production Urged [NODONG SINMUN 20 Dec]	D 3
Organization of Cooperative Production Viewed [NODONG SINMUN 19 Dec]	D 5

SOUTH KOREA

Chon Urges U.S.-S. Korea Combat Readiness	E 1
Seoul Questions French Stance on DPRK Ties [THE KOREA HERALD 19 Dec]	E 1
2d Round of Japan Science, Technology Talks Set	E 2
Ten DKP Legislators Join New Opposition Party [THE KOREA TIMES 20 Dec]	E 3
Preparatory Committee Formed	E 4
Seoul To Freeze Level of Steel Shipments to U.S. [THE KOREA HERALD 20 Dec]	E 4
Seoul Seeks To Avoid U.S. Charges of TV 'Dumping' [THE KOREA HERALD 20 Dec]	E 5
Key PRC Economic Laws Studied, Translated [THE KOREA TIMES 20 Dec]	E 6
Journalists Form Council Seeking Free Press [CHUNGANG ILBO 20 Dec]	E 7

MONGOLIA

1985 Economic, Social Plan Goals Reviewed	F 1
New Transport Tasks	F 1
Jagbaral, Gotob Deliver Great Hural Reports	F 2
Trade Unions Central Council Holds Meeting	F 2

KAMPUCHEA

Hun Sen's Visits to France, Sweden Hailed	H	1
Phnom Penh Activities Mark SRV Anniversary	H	1

LAOS

Souphanouvong Confers Medal on Vietnam Army	L	1
Khamtai Siphandon Heads Delegation to SRV	L	1
LPRP Appoints Committee for VPA Anniversary Fete	L	2
Thai 'Schemes' Said Serving 'Beijing Hegemonism'	L	2
[PASASON 18 Dec]		
Leaders Hail Presidium Election of MPR's Batmonh	L	3

THAILAND

Canal Digging Blamed for Lao Border Dispute	J	1
[THE NATION REVIEW 20 Dec]		
South Korean Foreign Minister Calls on Prem	J	1
[THE NATION REVIEW 20 Dec]		

VIETNAM

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Hanoi	K	1
NHAN DAN on PRC, Thai Complicity in Spy Case	K	1
Army Paper Reports on Spy Case Photo Exhibit	K	3
[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN]		
Editorial Hails 'Great Success' of Spy Trial	K	4
[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 19 Dec]		
Van Tien Dung Article on VPA Anniversary, Part I	K	6
[TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN]		
Hoang Phuong Recounts VPA History on Army Day	K	10
Hanoi Carries Review of TAP CHI CONG SAN No 12	K	13
NHAN DAN Accuses Thailand of Distorting Truth	K	16
Council of Ministers Rules on Tet Celebrations	K	18
Indochinese Geological Conference Closes	K	19

PHILIPPINES

Marcos Discusses Counterinsurgency Program	P	1
17 NPA Members Captured in Quezon Clash	P	1
Opposition Leader Declares Presidential Candidacy	P	2
Climaco Witnesses Refuse To Make Statements	P	2

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS*****Asia & Pacific*****Vol IV No 247****21 December 1984****JAPAN**

Thailand's Rattakun Makes Visit to Tokyo	C 1
Talks With Abe	C 1
Meets Agriculture Minister	C 1
Nakasone Meets South Korean Foreign Minister Yi	C 1
Yi on Olympic Invitations	C 2
USSR Urges Sharp Cut in Fish Catch Quota	C 2
JSP Confirms Nonfraternization With ROK	C 3
NTT Chief Reassures U.S. About 'Discrimination'	C 3
MITI Reports November Crude Oil Imports Down	C 4
Agriculture Ministry Confirms Record Rice Crop	C 4
Aid To Be Provided to Philippines, Indonesia	C 5
Briefs: Aid Grant to Burma	C 5

NORTH KOREA

Agreement on Construction Venture With France	D 1
Kim Yong-nam Continues Visit to East Europe	D 1
Talks With Andrei	D 1
Meeting With Ceausescu [cross-reference]	D 1
Meeting With Olszowski [corss-reference]	D 1
Chon's Plan To Imprison Kim Tae-chung Criticized [VRPR]	D 1
NODONG SINMUN Comments on Japanese Army Crimes [20 Dec]	D 2
Rally Marks Cuban Revolution Anniversary	D 2
Kang Song-san Meets Hungarian, Mongolian Envoys	D 3
Spanish Communist Party Head Meets Hwang Chang-yop	D 3

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul To Show Flexibility in Talks With North	E 1
Chon Urges Air Force Antiaircraft Vigilance	E 2
Opposition Group Holds Meeting for New Party	E 2
[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Dec]	
Yi Min-wu Elected Chairman	E 2
Multiparty System Criticized	E 3
S. Korea Protests Japan Tariff Measures	E 3
Dissidents' Declaration Protests Seoul Policies	E 4
[THE KOREA TIMES 21 Dec]	
Disappointment Seen With 11th National Assembly	E 5
[TONG-A ILBO 18 Dec]	

KAMPUCHEA

SRV Congratulated For Thwarting 'Very Cunning Act'	H 1
23 Bandits Killed, Wounded in Battambang	H 1
Lecture on VPA Anniversary Held in Phnom Penh	H 1
Chea Soth Receives Visiting NHAN DAN Delegation	H 2
GDR National Front Delegation Ends Visit, Departs	H 2

LAOS

Paper on 'Tarnished Prestige' of Thailand's Athit [PASASON 19 Dec]	I 1
Khamtai Siphandon Statement on VPA Anniversary	I 1
Soviet Cultural Delegation Arrives for Visit	I 2
National Peace Committee Meets WPC Delegation	I 3
Rally Held	I 3

THAILAND

Spokesman on Lao Troop Buildup, SRV Offensive [BANGKOK WORLD 20 Dec]	J 1
Vietnamese Forces Moved to Disputed Villages [BANGKOK POST 21 Dec]	J 1
Gen Athit Defends Controversial TV Speech [BANGKOK WORLD 20 Dec]	J 2
Cabinet Moves Against Athit Extension Viewed [BANGKOK WORLD 20 Dec]	J 4

VIETNAM

CPV Central Committee Holds 7th Plenum 11-17 Dec	K 1
NHAN DAN Editorial on 1985 Tasks, Objectives [21 Dec]	K 1
Eighth National Assembly Session Opens 21 Dec	K 3
Van Tien Dung, Vo Chi Cong Address Ceremony	K 3
Kampuchean Defense Minister Decorates VPA	K 5
Merit Medals Presented to Hanoi Army Units, Cadres	K 6
VPA's Victorious Anti-U.S. War Reviewed	K 6
Lao Defense Minister Arrives in Hanoi 18 Dec	K 11
Speaks to Hanoi Press	K 12
PRK Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive 18 Dec	K 12
Banquet Honors Lao, PRK Army Delegations	K 13
Le Duan Receives Dominican Communist Delegation	K 13
Hoang Tung Attends Opening of Press Center	K 14

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

Panel To Question British Veterans on N-Tests	M 1
---	-----

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Namaliu Makes 'Sweeping Changes' to Cabinet	M 1
---	-----

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Mahathir Comments on International Cooperation	O 1
MCA Members Urged Not To Overreact to Musa Call [NEW STRAITS TIMES 18 Dec]	O 1
Over 2,000 Communists Active Along Thai Border	O 1

PHILIPPINES

Piccio Confirms Soviet Intrusions in Airspace	P 1
Marcos Urges New Round of North-South Dialogue	P 1
Gen Ramas Addresses National Press Club Forum [AFP]	P 1
Opposition Searching for Presidential Candidates	P 2
Tatad on Presidential Aspirants' Platform	P 2
[BUSINESS DAY 19 Dec]	
Santa Ana Mayor Dies of Gunshot Wounds	P 5
Army Receives More U.S. Armored Vehicles	P 5
Foreign Minister Says Succession Law 'Timely'	P 5

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRUNEI

Reportage on Sultan's Visit to Egypt, Jordan [cross-reference]	Q 1
--	-----

INDONESIA

Netherlands Cooperation Minister Ends Visit	Q 1
---	-----

THAILAND'S RATTAKUN MAKES VISIT TO TOKYO

Talks With Abe

OW200509 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO -- Thailand called on Japan Thursday to further open its market to agricultural produce and promote joint ventures in the Southeast Asian country. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun also said his country wants Japan's economic aid which would lead to promotion of Thai exports to help whittle down the chronic trade imbalance. He made the request in a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, officials said.

A foreign ministry source said Phichai deplored Tokyo's failure to trim a tariff on boneless chicken from the current 18 percent and expressed worry about political effect the failure is having in Thailand.

Abe explained that domestic opposition forced the government not to cut tariff on boneless chicken but that the [word indistinct] government made "maximum efforts" it could to facilitate imports from Thailand and (?other) countries.

Last week, Japan announced a new package of market-opening measures, including tariff reductions on frozen shrimps and cuttlefish and canned pineapples, a move Abe said would benefit the Thais.

In his talks here with Abe, Phichai again urged Japan to cut tariff on boneless chicken, arguing the issue has become a symbol of lopsided two-way trade which the Thais assert is causing a deficit of as much as 1.5 billion dollars a year.

Abe said, ministry officials later related, Japan is ready to extend technical assistance for protection of maize from mould and sterilization of fruits to aid Thailand's export drive. The Japanese foreign minister also told Phichai that imports of tapioca pellet from Thailand are steadily on the rise, the official added. Abe's proposal for working-level consultations over trade, economic cooperation and investment between the two countries received Phichai's support, the Japanese officials said.

Japan is also boosting the purchases of Thai rice for food assistance to poor countries by 2 billion yen (about 8 million dollars) from a year ago to 6.1 billion yen (about 24.6 million dollars) this year, Abe noted.

Meets Agriculture Minister

OW210653 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 Kyodo -- Visiting Thai Vice Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun Friday renewed his appeal to Japan to reduce its import tariffs on boneless chicken. In a meeting with Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Moriyoshi Sato, Phichai expressed dissatisfaction over the absence of the tariff cut in Japan's package of market-opening measures announced on December 14, saying tariffs on U.S. chicken with bones are lower than those on boneless chicken. In reply, Sato explained the plight of Japan's chicken farmers and cited import expansion of such agricultural products as maize and tapioca.

NAKASONE MEETS SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER YI

OW210841 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- South Korea wants to work together with Japan and other developed countries for Pacific cooperation in regional economic development, Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong said here Friday.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT**
CONTENTS*Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 248

24 December 1984

JAPAN

Features of Approved 1985 Budget Draft Viewed	C 1
Abe Outlines Nakasone-Reagan Summit Agenda	C 1
Nakasone Holds Talks With U.S. Senator Percy	C 2
Nakasone, Thai Deputy Premier Discuss ASEAN	C 3
Abe Holds Talks With ROK Counterpart	C 3

NORTH KOREA

Leaders Send Condolences on Ustinov's Death	D 1
Kim Message to Chernenko	D 1
O Chin-u Message	D 1
O Chin-u, Group Leave for Ustinov Funeral	D 2
Kim Il-song Sends Wreath to Soviet Embassy	D 2
Officials Visit Embassy	D 3
DFRF Memorandum on Development in South	D 3
NODONG SINMUN on Settlement of Hong Kong Issue [22 Dec]	D 5
O Chin-u Sends Message to SRV Counterpart	D 6

SOUTH KOREA

Opposition Members Detained, Released	E 1
Yi Won-kyong Returns From Overseas Visits [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	E 1
New Party Committee Organization Registers [THE KOREA HERALD 23 Dec]	E 1
2 Socialist Party Members Join New Party [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	E 2
Party Members Call for Shakeup in Leadership [THE KOREA TIMES 22 Dec]	E 2

KAMPUCHEA

Leaders Send Condolences on Ustinov's Death	H 1
Bou Thang Message	H 1
Solarz Delegation Arrives in Phnom Penh	H 2
Congressman Montgomery Cited on Indochina Trip	H 2
VODK Attacks Montgomery's Indochina Visit	H 2

LAOS

PASASON Terms SRV Treason Trial 'Victory'	I 1
Condolences Sent to USSR on Ustinov Death	I 1
Khamtai Siphandon Greet SRV's Van Tien Dung	I 2
Military Delegation Returns From VPA Celebration	I 3
PASASON Discusses Beijing-Bangkok 'Collusion'	I 3
WPC's Chandra Calls on Souphanouvong, Departs	I 4

THAILAND

Sitthi Irked at U.S. Congressmen's Visit	J 1
[BANGKOK WORLD 21 Dec]	
Spokesman Rejects SRV Spy Trial Accusations	J 1
VOFA Calls Hanoi Treason Trial Ridiculous	J 1
Spokesman Urges Lao Visit to Disputed Area	J 2
Officer Predicts Vietnamese Attack on Ampil	J 3
[THE NATION REVIEW 24 Dec]	
SRV Reportedly Offered Lao Troops To Aid CPT	J 3
[BANGKOK POST 23 Dec]	
Prime Minister Receives New Soviet Ambassador	J 5
Editor Jailed for Communism Released on Bail	J 5
[BANGKOK POST 22 Dec]	

VIETNAM

Thach Remarks on Contacts With U.S. Cited [AFP]	K 1
Death of USSR's Defense Minister Ustinov Marked	K 1
Condolence Message Sent	K 1
Military Group Leaves	K 2
State Group Visits Embassy	K 2
Communique No 1 on National Assembly Session	K 3
CPV Central Committee Plenum Issues Communique	K 3
Hanoi Gives Plenum Details	K 5
Grand Meeting Marks VPA 40th Anniversary	K 9
Van Tien Dung Speaks	K 10
CPV Issues Instructions on Victory Celebration	K 14
Socialist Military Attaches Greet VPA Day	K 15
Defense Ministry Hosts VPA Day Reception	K 15
Le Duan Receives Foreign Military Delegations	K 16
Hoang Tung, Nguyen Vinh Receive Latvian Group	K 17
Hoang Van Thai Greets Cuban Military Group	K 17
VPA Decorated With Lao National Gold Order	K 17
Van Tien Dung, Others Attend VPA Ceremony	K 18

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Commentary Views 'South-South' Dialogue, Aid	O 1
--	-----

SINGAPORE

Lee Reelected by 'Overwhelming Majority'	O 2
--	-----

PHILIPPINES

Agreement Reached on Debt Restructuring	P 1
Marcos Views Balance of Trade Prospects	P 1
Marcos Holiday Message Full of Optimism	P 1
Alleged Assassin of Cesar Climaco Arrested	P 2
Asian Development Bank Loan for Energy Projects	P 2
Editorial Criticizes Soviet Air Intrusions	P 2
[TIMES JOURNAL 23 Dec]	

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 249

26 December 1984

JAPAN

Outline of National Budget Draft for 1985	C	1
Fishing Boat Seized by ROK Returned 25 Dec	C	1
'Provisional' Fishery Accord Reached With USSR	C	2
Thailand's Phichai Tells Abe About DPRK Visit	C	3

NORTH KOREA

O Chin-u, Group Attend Ustinov Funeral, Return	D	1
Visit to Bier	D	1
O Chin-u Meets Sokolov	D	1
Delegation Returns Home	D	2
Ho Tam Meets CPSU Propaganda Delegation	D	2
Group Ends Visit	D	2
PLO Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang	D	2
Meeting With Kang Song-san	D	2
Group Leaves	D	3
Gathering Marks Cuban Revolution Anniversary	D	3
South Minister's Remarks on North-South Talks Hit	D	3
Kim Chong-il's On-Spot Guidance Reviewed	D	5
Successful Nature Restoring Projects Noted	D	6
NODONG SINMUN on Importance of Supply Work [24 Dec]	D	7

SOUTH KOREA

Foreign Ministry Ideas for Pacific Cooperation	E	1
[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Dec]		
North Korea Hits 'Royal Family' in Leaflets	E	1
[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Dec]		
SNU To Give No Points to Exam-Boycotters	E	1
[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Dec]		
Korea University To Give Boycotters Another Chance	E	1
[THE KOREA HERALD 25 Dec]		

MONGOLIA

Batmonh, Sodnom Condolences on Ustinov Death	F	1
UNEN Observer Comments on Gorbachev UK Visit	F	1

KAMPUCHEA

Reportage on Continuing Fighting at Nong Samet [ArP]	H	1
Solarz Delegation Received by Foreign Minister	H	1
Leaders Attend VPA Anniversary Meeting	H	2
Heng Samrin Address	H	2
Soy Keo Address	H	3
Report on Human Rights Violations Rejected	H	4

LAOS

Celebrations Mark 40th VPA Founding Anniversary	I 1
SRV Attache Hosts Reception	I 1
Mass Rally	I 1
Defense Ministry Banquet	I 2
PASASON Editorial [22 Dec]	I 2
Phoun Sipaseut Receives CPV Delegation	I 3

THAILAND

Reportage on, Reaction to SRV Xmas Offensive	J 1
Military Sources Cited [BANGKOK WORLD 26 Dec]	J 1
Report on Ampil, Nong Samet	J 1
AFP on Attack	J 2
Athit on Situation [THE NATION REVIEW 25 Dec]	J 3
Reporters Visit Refugees From Lao Border Area [THE NATION REVIEW 23 Dec]	J 3
Labor Leaders Criticize March on Prem Residence [THE NATION REVIEW 23 Dec]	J 5

VIETNAM

Hanoi Reports on Visit by Solarz Delegation	K 1
AFP Report	K 1
Leaders Speak at National Assembly Opening	K 1
Communique No 2 on National Assembly Session	K 5
National Assembly Discusses 1985 Tasks 25 Dec	K 5
Meets on 26 Dec	K 6
PRC-USSR Rapprochement Moves Welcomed [KYODO]	K 7
Van Tien Dung Sends Condolences on Ustinov	K 7
Defense Group Pays Respects at USSR Embassy	K 8
Hanoi Leaders Attend VPA Day Celebrations	K 8
Defense Group Pays Tribute at Mausoleum	K 9
Assembly Group Visits	K 9
Leaders Address VPA Anniversary Meeting 22 Dec	K 9
Soviet Military Delegation Visits Army Division	K 12
Delegation Departs	K 12
Lao Army Delegation Ends Visit to Hanoi	K 12
Kampuchean Army Delegation Leaves 24 Dec	K 13
Van Tien Dung Receives Cuban Army Delegation	K 13
Cuban Military Group Tours Antiaircraft Service	K 14
Ho Chi Minh City Meeting Marks VPA Founding	K 14
QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Denounces PRC-Thai Collusion	K 14

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE

Lee Kuan Yew Discusses Outcome of Election [THE STRAITS TIMES 24 Dec]	O 1
--	-----

PHILIPPINES

Opposition 'Convenor Group' Sets Guidelines [VERITAS 16 Dec]	P 1
Marcos Orders Probe Into Military Abuses	P 3

FBIS**DAILY REPORT****CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 250

27 December 1984

JAPAN

Nakasone Reveals Possible Issues for Reagan Talks C 1
U.S.-Soviet Talks Urged C 1
Abe Renews Call for Soviet Afghan Withdrawal C 2

NORTH KOREA

Scientific Accord Signed With PRC 25 Dec D 1
LSWYK Hosts Reception for Chinese Youth League D 1
Hwang Chang-yop-Led Group Visits FRG for Talks D 1
Reportage on CAR Special Envoy's Visit D 2
Chong Chun-ki at Reception D 2
Chong Chun-ki Receives Envoy D 2
Meeting With Kim D 2
Kim Il-song Meets Congolese Chuche Group D 2
NODONG SINMUN Observes 12th Constitution Day [27 Dec] D 3
VRPR Reviews North's Accomplishments in 1984 D 6
Kim Il-song Congratulates Polish President D 9
O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Hungarian Minister D 9
O Chin-u Conveys Message to Yugoslav Figure D 9
Many Mines Undergoing Reconstruction, Expansion D 10

SOUTH KOREA

DKP Forms New Body for Party Operations E 1
[THE KOREA HERALD 27 Dec]
Two DKP Members Defect to New Opposition Party E 2
[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Dec]
New Party Calls For Change in Election Schedule E 2
[THE KOREA HERALD 27 Dec]
Paper Urges Close Watch on Sino-Soviet Relations E 2
[THE KOREA HERALD 27 Dec]

MONGOLIA

Purebdorj Leaves Ulaanbaatar for Ustinov Funeral F 1
Batmonh, Sodnom Pay Respects at Soviet Embassy F 1

KAMPUCHEA

Thai Paper Reports On 'Sporadic Fighting' H 1
[Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW 27 Dec]
VOFA Report on Attacks H 1
Phnom Penh: More Than 200 Khmer Killed 21 Dec H 2
Commentary on SRV Spy Trial, PRC-Thai 'Trick' H 2
Bou Thang, Delegation Return From Vietnam H 3
Chea Sim Greets SRV Fatherland Front Chairman H 3
VODK Commentary on Solarz' Phnom Penh Visit H 4
VONADK Denounces 25 Dec SRV Attack on Civilians H 5

LAOS

Phoun Sipaseut Receives U.S. Congressional Team	I	1
Sisomphon Lovansai at Cadre Conference Closing	I	1
Saman Vignaket Opens Meeting on Youth Festival	I	1

THAILAND

Athit Orders Border Forces on 'Full Alert'	J	1
[BANGKOK WORLD 27 Dec]		
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Condemns Attacks	J	1
[MATUPHUM 27 Dec]		

VIETNAM

'Volunteer Troops' Aid Attack on PRK-Thai Border	K	1
VNA Rejects BANGKOK POST 22 Dec Statement	K	1
Song Be Court Tries Former Saigon Army Members	K	1
Foreign Ministry on Nationality	K	2
National Assembly Continues Plenary Meeting	K	2
Topics Listed	K	2
Government Report, Part 1	K	3
Government Report, Part 2	K	6
Eighth Session Closes	K	10
Government Economic Delegation Leaves for Laos	K	10
Central Committee Greets Baath Socialist Party	K	10
Van Tien Dung Article on VPA Anniversary	K	11
Part 2 [TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN]	K	11
Part 3 [TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN]	K	13

INDONESIA

Mokhtar Returns From ICO Meeting in Sanaa	N	1
Briefs: Ocean Port Dedicated; Ambassadors	N	1
From Pakistan, Greece		

PHILIPPINES

Opposition Presidential Hopefuls Sign Pact	P	1
Kalaw Advocates Convention	P	1
Paris Club Agrees To Loan Restructuring	P	1
[BULLETIN TODAY 24 Dec]		
Central Bank To Reorganize Banking System	P	2
[METRO MANILA TIMES 26 Dec]		
President Orders Review of Proposed Tax Hike	P	3
Supreme Court Orders Return of Seized Articles	P	3
PNA Cited on Location of Kidnapped Foreigners [AFP]	P	3
Columnist Views Causes of Military Abuses	P	4
[BULLETIN TODAY 24 Dec]		

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****Asia & Pacific**

Vol IV No 251

28 December 1984

JAPAN

National Defense Council Clears Missile Upgrade	C 1
Gasoline Imported From Singapore Arrives in Kobe	C 1
Agreement Reached With South Korea in Silk Talks	C 2
Agriculture Aid Grant Extended to Zambia	C 2

NORTH KOREA

26, 27, 28 SR-71 Overflights Reported	D 1
Paper Rebuts South Minister's Remarks in Bangkok [NODONG SINMUN 27 Dec]	D 1
KCNA Denounces Livsey's 'Christmas Message'	D 2
South Official's Anticommunist 'Talk' Criticized	D 2
Exercises 'Aimed at Provoking Nuclear War' [NODONG SINMUN 25 Dec]	D 3
Kim Yong-nam-Led Delegation Visits Iran	D 3
Prime Minister Meets Group	D 3
Rafsanjani Receives Delegation	D 4
Tehran Reportage [cross-reference]	D 4
O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Afghan Counterpart	D 4

SOUTH KOREA

Government Decides To Recall Envoy to France	E 1
Yi Won-kyong Interviewed on ASEAN, Reunification [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 22 Dec]	E 1
351 Applv for NKDP's Local Chapter Posts [THE KOREA HERALD 28 Dec]	E 3
Another DKP Member Quits To Join New Party [THE KOREA HERALD 28 Dec]	E 4
Paper Calls For Fair, Clean Assembly Elections [THE KOREA TIMES 28 Dec]	E 4
Japan Cancels Post Appointment of Korean Teacher [THE KOREA HERALD 28 Dec]	E 5

KAMPUCHEA

Leadership Reports Chan Si 'Seriously Ill'	H 1
Reportage on Recent KPRAF Attacks on Khmer Bases	H 1
Khmer Resistance Forces Harass SRV Troops [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW 28 Dec]	H 1
UN Official on Evacuation of Refugees to Thailand [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 28 Dec]	H 2
Party-Government Group Pays Homage to Ustinov	H 3
KUFNCD Delegation Lays Wreath	H 3
Party CC Secretariat Circular on National Day	H 3
VONADK on U.S. Official's Remarks on SRV Attack	H 5
VONADK, VODK Battle Reports for 14-20 Dec	H 5

LAOS

Indochinese Cooperation Commission Holds Session	I 1
Memorandum on Cooperation With SRV Signed	I 1

THAILAND

Major Post-Devaluation Measures Announced	J 1
[THE NATION REVIEW 25 Dec]	
Phichai Returns, Discusses Talks With Japan	J 2
[THE NATION REVIEW 27 Dec]	
VOFA Criticizes SRV Trial of Dissidents	J 2
Briefs: Lao Refugees' Voluntary Repatriation;	J 3
New Air Defense Center; Finance Companies	
Under Control	

VIETNAM

25 Dec Attack on 'Khmer Reactionaries' Reported	K 1
Seventh National Assembly Closes Meeting	K 1
Communique No 4 Issued	K 3
Nguyen Co Thach Writes to UNESCO Director	K 3
U.S. Withdrawal Denounced [NHAN DAN 27 Dec]	K 4
Van Tien Dung Congratulates USSR's Sokolov	K 5
1984 Food, Crop Production Figures Reported	K 5
Boosting Production Stressed [NHAN DAN 25 Dec]	K 5
Hanoi Reviews Recent Agricultural Activities	K 6
PRC 'Crimes' Against Border Provinces Cited	K 8
GDR National Front Delegation Makes Visit	K 9
Hungary's K. Laszlo Visits Hanoi, Provinces	K 9
Kampuchean Central Committee Delegation Arrives	K 9
Delegation Departs	K 10
Sandinist Front Group Ends Friendship Visit	K 10
Truong Chinh Greets Poland's Jablonski	K 10

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Commentary Welcomes Rithauddeen's ICO Speech	O 1
--	-----

SINGAPORE

Ministry Announces Plan To Pull Out of UNESCO	[AFP]	O 2
Workers Party's Nair Named Nonconstituency MP		O 2

PHILIPPINES

Foreign Loans Approved for Restructuring	P 1	
Sources Say Virata To Take Control of NFA, HSDC	P 1	
[BUSINESS DAY 27 Dec]		
Ver Hopes To Return to Armed Forces Post	P 3	
[ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 16 Dec]		
Government Troops Clash With NPA in Cagayan	P 3	
Gunman Kills Radio Commentator in Cebu City	[AFP]	P 3
Marcos Orders Stress on Socioeconomic Projects	P 4	
Virata Discusses Policies for 1985 at Press Club	P 4	
Quota of 17 Generals Set for Armed Forces	P 4	

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Asia & Pacific*

Vol IV No 252

31 December 1984

JAPAN

Fiscal 1985 Budget Plan Formally Approved	C 1
Outline of Plan	C 2
'Substantial' Increase in Fiscal 1985 ODA Budget	C 3
Government Maps Strategy for Los Angeles Summit	C 4
Japan Seeks Cabinet-Level Trade Talks With U.S.	C 5

NORTH KOREA

CPRF Issues Memorandum on Relations With South	D 1
Chon's Flattery of U.S. Forces in South Decried [NODONG SINMUN 28 Dec]	D 8
Kim Il-song Receives Chinese Youth Delegation	D 9
Kim Yong-nam-Led Group Continues Iran Visit	D 10
Talks With Velayati	D 10
President Receives Kim	D 10
Report on Provincial Party Plenary Meetings	D 10
Drive Continues To Increase Coal Production	D 14

SOUTH KOREA

Further on Decision To Recall Envoy to France	E 1
'Clear Notice' Served [THE KOREA TIMES 30 Dec]	E 2
CHOSON ILBO Commentary [29 Dec]	E 3
'Cooling of Relations' Eyed [TONG-A ILBO 29 Dec]	E 5
Yi Sees Increased Nonpolitical Contacts With PRC	E 6
Soviets Petitioned To Allow Family Reunions [THE KOREA HERALD 30 Dec]	E 6
Opposition Parties Nominate Assembly Candidates [THE KOREA HERALD 29 Dec]	E 7

KAMPUCHEA

'Special Communique' Announces Death of Chan Si	H 1
Resistance Said To Hold Most of Nong Samet [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 29 Dec]	H 2
Heavy Fighting Reported [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 31 Dec]	H 2
Hun Sen, SRV Ambassador Visit Troops at Border	H 3
Defense Ministry Pays Tribute to USSR's Ustinov	H 4
Heng, Leaders Greet MPR Counterparts on Election	H 5
Heng Samrin, Hun Sen Greet Cuban Counterparts	H 5

LAOS

Reaction to Espionage Trial in Vietnam	I 1
Communique Issued	I 1
Commentary Hails Verdict	I 2
Government Said To Seek 'New Round' of Talks [Bangkok BANGKOK POST 30 Dec]	I 3

Official Turns Down Thai Offer To Visit Villages [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD 29 Dec]	I 3
Soviet Cultural Delegation Leaves for Home	I 4
Officials Condole USSR Leaders on Ustinov Death	I 5
Kaysone Phomvihane Receives SRV Delegation	I 5
Delegation Departs	I 5
Fourth Indochinese Cooperation Session Closes	I 6
Agreements Signed	I 6
Kaysone Phomvihane Meets Groups	I 6

THAILAND

Prasong Denies Troops Present on Lao Soil [BANGKOK POST 29 Dec]	J 1
Editorial Comment on SRV Offensive in Kampuchea [THE NATION REVIEW 27 Dec]	J 1
Athit Inspects Border Areas in Prachin Buri	J 2

VIETNAM

VNA Criticizes Le Quoc Tuy Press Conference	K 1
Delegation Returns Home From Ustinov Funeral	K 1
Cuban Military Delegation Ends Visit, Departs	K 1
National Day Greetings Sent to Cuban Leaders	K 2
Council of State Communique on 29 Dec Session	K 3
Vo Nguyen Giap Attends Geotechnical Conference	K 3

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

Foreign Ministry on Soviet Role in Afghanistan	O 1
--	-----

SINGAPORE

New Cabinet Appointments Announced 31 Dec	O 1
---	-----

PHILIPPINES

Minister Ople Discusses Nominating Mrs Marcos	P 1
Butz Aquino Plans To Be Presidential Candidate [AFP]	P 1
KYODO: Marcos Fails To Appear at Rizal Ceremony	P 1
Ver Gives Assurance of No Military Takeover	P 2
Virata Signs Asian Development Bank Loan	P 2

END OF

FICHE

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